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ABSTRACT

For the benefit of the Connecticut General Assembly, a first report is submitted on the importance, development and future uses of cable telecommunications for educational and informational purposes. Current status of cable television in the state's 169 towns is described, along with names of licensees and progress in construction; membership on local advisory councils as required by the State Public Utilities Commission also is listed. Developments and possibilities in public information, schools, libraries, the government channel, higher education, health and social sciences, and interstate cooperation are summarized. Recommendations for telecommunications policy as requested by the Assembly are promised in a further report. (SK)

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ED112855

public use of public channels: opportunities in cable telecommunications

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FIRST REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications

Hartford, Connecticut **February 15, 1975**

IR 002 564

Cable is an industry which is closely linked to several major national industries including electronic data processing, telephone, television and radio broadcasting, the motion picture and music industries, and communications satellites. Although each cable system is a local enterprise, it distributes television signals in interstate commerce. Because of these characteristics, cable requires a consistent and coherent national policy.

Recognition of the need for a national policy, however, must not preclude an appreciation for the important and often diverse local interests in the development and performance of cable systems. Localism plays as important a role in our system of mass communications as it does in our system of government. Cable can fulfill its promise of providing a medium for a multitude of diverse voices serving both local and national purposes only as long as state and local governments are given a substantial role in determining the policies for cable communications services.

--CABLE REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, January 16, 1974

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications

FIRST REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC USE OF PUBLIC CHANNELS: OPPORTUNITIES IN CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FEBRUARY 15, 1975

COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY

BERNARD SHEA, CHAIRMAN
FRANK DELUCIA
ROBERT HALE
SELMA MARKOWITZ
GERALD MCCANN

MARGARET CLELAND, SECRETARY EX OFFICIO

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Written reports and statements directed to the Commission through April 7, 1975 are appended to File Copies of this *FIRST REPORT* deposited with the Education Committee, the Regulated Activities Committee, and the State Library. Transcribed oral testimony will be added to the File Copies. A set of *Connecticut Cable Clips* published from September 4, 1974 - February 26, 1975 and a copy of a bibliography, *On the Cable*, will also be appended to File Copies.

The Commission's regular meeting in Hartford on December 17, 1974 was videotaped by the Connecticut State Library. The Commission's public hearing held in Danbury on January 9, 1975 was videotaped by the Danbury Public Library. Copies of these tapes will be deposited in the State Library archives.

Reports and statements related to the charge of the Commission received after February 15, 1975 will be assembled in a Supplement to be appended to File Copies of the *FIRST REPORT*.

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable Mary Martin
The Honorable Howard Klebanoff
CO-chairmen, Education Committee
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut

February 15, 1975

Dear Senator Martin and Repr. Klebanoff;

It gives me great pleasure to transmit to you and your colleagues on the Education Committee the First Report of the Commission to Study the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications.

As you are aware, the Commission was established by Special Act 74-111 of the 1974 session, and was charged to make a study of, and submit recommendations regarding, the importance, development and future uses of cable telecommunications for educational and informational purposes, said report to be submitted to the General Assembly no later than February 15, 1975. The sum of $50,000 was appropriated to carry out the purposes of the Act.

As you may know, the Commission has encountered several obstacles to date in its effort to carry out the charge of the Legislature and complete its report within the time alloted. Regrettably, we are not now in a position to provide you with a final report, for it was our feeling that the gravity of the subject matter committed to our study required that our investigation be carried out with all due deliberation. We have therefore decided to request that the General Assembly grant us an extension of our deadline sufficient to allow completion of the study in the manner in which it should be carried out, and simultaneously provide you with this First Report so that you will be aware of our activities to date.

It is our belief that the proper development of the educational and informational potential of cable telecommunications here in Connecticut is of critical importance. At the present time, it is safe to say that cable television is still in its infant stages here. It is a communications medium that may one day reshape our lives in much the same way that technological advancements in the field of communications have always done. In light of the impact that this medium could have on our lives, our educational institutions and the manner in which we handle information, the General Assembly, and more particularly, the Education Committee, demonstrated great foresight in creating this Commission to study this complex field.

We are aware that Representative Klebanoff has introduced HB 6708, which would extend the life of the Commission to February 15, 1975. The Commission fully supports this bill, and applauds your initiative in introducing it, as this will provide us the time that we feel will be necessary to do justice to the subject matter.

There is another matter of which you should be aware, one that we hope will be resolved in the very near future. That is the desperate need of the Commission to be allowed access to the funds appropriated to it.

We have tried unsuccessfully on several occasions to have these funds allocated to us as needed by the Legislative Management Committee. At their December meeting, it was decided that no action should be taken until a decision was made by the 1975 session as to whether the life of the Commission should be extended.

We have been in operation since October, and as the attached report reflects, have accomplished a good deal in that time. However, the financial uncertainty has placed a considerable strain on the morale of the Commission and its members, none of whom are compensated for the many hours they have already put into this project. Further, this uncertainty has seriously impeded our ability to progress with our study at the pace and in the depth necessary.

The Commission, prior to January 1st., was the benefactor of the offer of the State Librarian to provide staff services using funds available to him under a Federal grant. Unfortunately, these positions were lost when the grant expired at the end of December. Since that time, one of our staff members has been working without salary, and the other has left to seek more secure employment. Until we are able to begin drawing against our initial appropriation, our ability to complete the final report requested by the General Assembly is questionable.

It is my hope that the General Assembly will act swiftly in the matter of extending the life of the Commission, and that in so doing, it will extend simultaneously the original appropriation, so that it does not lapse at the end of the fiscal year. In anticipation of early action by the Legislature we will shortly be preparing a revised budget for the Legislative Management Committee, and I will gladly provide you and the members of your committee with this document. With your support, it is our intention to work diligently over the next year to produce a report containing recommendations designed to insure that the citizens of Connecticut will reap the full fruits of the vast educational and informational potential of cable telecommunications.

I trust that the information contained in this First Report is helpful to you in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

John J. Almquist

JOHN JEFFREY ALMQUIST
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
231 Capitol Avenue · Hartford, Connecticut 06115

CABLE INFORMATION SERVICES

ROOM 601
TEL.: 566-7315

SPECIAL ACT 74-111

File No. 546

Substitute House Bill No. 5105

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. There shall be a commission consisting of four members of the joint standing committee on education appointed by the chairmen of said committee, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party; and twenty-one persons apppointed by the governor, one of whom shall be representative from the state planning council; one representative from the board for state academic awards; one representative from the Connecticut Institute for Health Manpower Resources; one representative from the Connecticut Higher Education Television Association; one representative from the commission for higher education; one representative from the state library; one representative from the state board of education; one representative from the Connecticut Audio-Visual Education Association; one representative from Connecticut Public Television; one representative from the Cable Television Operators Association; one representative from commercial broadcast television; one representative from the Connecticut Conference of Mayors; one representative from the commission on the arts; one representative from the Connecticut Library Association; one representative from the public utilities commission; one representative from the Connecticut Association for the Advancement of School Administration; and five representatives of the public who have demonstrated interest and creativity in the informational and educational uses of the communications.

Sec. 2. Said commission shall conduct a study of, and make recommendations regarding the importance, development and future use of cable telecommunications for educational and informational purposes. This study shall be made with reference to Federal Communications Commission regulations which require a five year period during which cable channels must be set aside for educational, local governmental and public access purposes, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) The identifications of the needs and costs of educational and informational uses of cable telecommunications; (2) an examination of the type or control and franchising of cable telecommunications in Connecticut, including the distribution of channel usages, which will best protect, promote and assure maximum access for educational and informational purposes; (3) development of a state policy which will ensure funding adequate to encourage educational flexibility, convenience and experimentation, and to develop open or closed circuit programs for all educational levels and types of needed informational services; (4) the feasibility of establishing community information centers which are convenient to non-cable subscribers; (5) the means of co-operating with other states in the development and use of cable telecommunications; (6) an examination of those criminal and civil laws, including, but not limited to, libel, slander, obscenity and copyright, which may affect use of and access to the cable by placing liability in the first instance on the cable operator; (7) consideration of the establishment of a permanent commission on cable telecommunications; and (8) all other germane matters.

Sec. 3. Said commission may employ such professional and clerical assistance as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Sec. 4. Said commission shall, not later than February 15, 1975, report its findings to the 1975 session of the general assembly and recommend to said session of the general assembly any legislative programs which will achieve the purposes of this act.

Sec. 5. The sum of fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to said commission to implement the purposes of this act, which appropriation shall be from the sum appropriated to the finance advisory committee under section 1 of number 74-31 of the special acts of the current session for the reserve for legislation affecting agency budgets and shall be administered by the joint committee on legislative management.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To assure that the vast educational and informational potential of cable telecommunications will be developed and utilized to the greatest possible extent.

COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CHAIRMAN: J. JEFFREY ALMQUIST
VICE-CHAIRMAN: SETH HOUCK

Roster of Members

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WALTER T. BRAHM - CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
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IRA J. SINGER - CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
HERBERT SMITH - COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
PAUL K. TAFF - CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TELEVISION
GEORGE WEST - STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARGARET CLELAND - EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REP. WILLIAM CHURCHILL, Legislator)
REP. RUTH H. CLARK, Legislator) were members of the Commission as originally constituted.
HAROLD R. STERRETT, III, Connecticut State Planning Committee) Their positions are currently vacant.

ADELA M. EADS represented State Board of Education prior to appointment of GEORGE WEST

February 15, 1975

COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- NOVEMBER 1974

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY:

Shea, Bernard (Ch)
DeLucia, Frank R.
Hale, Robert G.
Houck, Seth
Markowitz, Selma Lee
McCann, Gerald J.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Hale, Robert G. (Ch)
Negron-Smith, Edna
Shea, Bernard
Samaha, George

SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY

STATE OF THE ART

Eads, M. Adela
Smith, Herbert
Taff, Paul K.

NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES

Markowitz, Selma Lee (Ch)
Clark, Ruth H.
Hale, Robert G.
Klebanoff, Howard M.
Lushington, Nolan
Negron-Smith, Edna
O'Leary, Cornelius P.
Pettiross, Virginia
Shea, Bernard
Singer, Ira J.

COSTS/FUNDING

McCann, Gerald J. (Ch)
Clark, Ruth H.
Sterrett, Harold, III

LEGAL MATTERS

DeLucia, Frank R. (Ch)
Jenetopulos, Matthew
Samaha, George

FURTHER STUDIES

Houck, Seth (Ch)
Brahm, Walter T.
Churchill, William
Hale, Robert G.

Margaret Cleland, Executive Officer, serves as secretary ex officio to all committees

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

The Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications was convened on October 1, 1974 by Senator Ruth Truex and Representative Rufus Rose, Co-chairmen of the Education Committee. Senator Truex cited the charge to the Commission: to study and make recommendations concerning the importance, development and future use of cable telecommunications with specific reference to public channels designated by the Federal Communications Commission for an experimental five-year period. The intent of the legislation was to develop State policy for the most effective use of cable technology in the public interest.

Officers were elected, committees formed, and policies and procedures adopted. Regular meetings were held at least twice monthly. Public hearings were held in New London and Danbury. Public notice was duly given of all meetings. Records, correspondence and other Commission files have been maintained for official audit and public inspection at the Commission's headquarters at the State Library.

Administrative and secretarial staff, office space, telephone, duplicating and mailing facilities to operate the Commission were contributed through December 31, 1974 by the Connecticut State Library, with the expectation that funds appropriated to the Commission would be made available to the Commission to continue the implementation of the charge from the Legislature. Research and public information services have been provided by the State Library to the Commission by the Library's Cable Information Services unit, whose director, Margaret Cleland, has served the Commission as executive officer, on detached service from the Library.

Guidelines for this *First Report* were drawn up by the Commission in January. Responsibility for writing the *Report* was assigned by the Commission to Mrs. Cleland, under the supervision of Dr. Bernard Shea, Chairman of the Committee on the Study.

The Commission offers the *Report* to acquaint members of the Legislature with the ecology of cable in Connecticut and to share information and impressions obtained from a number of organizations and individuals interested in using cable telecommunications for public purposes. The *Report* does not purport to be a technical, legal or analytical study with considered conclusions, a task that remains on the State of Connecticut's agenda.

M. C.

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL
USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

c/o Connecticut State Library/231 Capitol Ave./Room 601/Hartford, Ct 06115
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LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND: CONNECTICUT FIRSTS

Connecticut is a national pace-setter in cable legislation.

FIRST STATE TO REGULATE CABLE

Legislation enacted in 1963, authorizing the Public Untilities Commission to award franchises to community antenna television companies, made Connecticut the first state to regulate cable. Although most cable franchising in the country is still conducted at the municipal level, there is a discernible trend toward state regulation or oversight of some kind (summary sheet follows).

FIRST STATE TO FIELD A COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC USE OF CABLE

In 1974 the General Assembly again enacted first-of-its-kind cable legislation by establishing the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications. The Commission's charge was to assure that a portion of the vast spectrum of cable channels be devoted to public service uses reflecting the needs and interests of Connecticut citizens. The legislation was commended by the Federal Communications Commission, which in 1972 set aside three free so-called access channels for education, state and local government, and the

general public. A number of other states are drafting legislation similar to Connecticut's Special Act 74-111.

The realization that time for experimentation with access channels is running out, and that assistance to develop quality public programming is needed, is a matter of growing concern to access-minded citizens and officials across the country. Many now look to Connecticut's Commission to devise a State strategy that will help educators, public agencies and citizens make effective use of cable.

OTHERS LOOK TO CONNECTICUT FOR A MODEL STRATEGY

It is evident to the Commission that informed Connecticut citizens consider public use of public channels important. It is also evident, however, that without a State policy and State support interesting and useful cable programming truly responsive to Connecticut's priorities and public interests may not be fully developed. Hopefully, the Commission will be authorized to continue its study and advise the Legislature how "to assure that the vast educational and informational potential of cable telecommunications will be developed and utilized to the greatest possible extent."

STATES REGULATING CABLE TELEVISION (2/15/75)

STATE	AGENCY	FRANCHISING AUTHORITY
ALASKA	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	PUC
CONNECTICUT	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	PUC
DELAWARE	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	MUNICIPALITY PSC FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS
HAWAII	DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES OF PUC	PUC
MASSACHUSETTS	COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION COMMISSION	MUNICIPALITY COMMISSION CAN REVOKE FRANCHISE
MINNESOTA	CABLE COMMISSION -- PRIOR APPROVAL BY COMMISSION AND CONTIGUOUS MUNICIPALITIES REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE JOINT FRANCHISING	MUNICIPALITY
NEVADA	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	PSC
NEW JERSEY	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, OFFICE OF CABLE TV	MUNICIPALITY
NEW YORK	COMMISSION ON CABLE TELEVISION	COMMISSION ISSUES CERTIFICATES OF CONFIRMATION
RHODE ISLAND	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	PUC
VERMONT	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE	PSB
also COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	PUC

PENDING LEGISLATION

NEW JERSEY	ESTABLISH CABLE TELEVISION COUNCIL WITHIN PUC
OREGON	ESTABLISH STATE COMMISSION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TEXAS	ESTABLISH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
WASHINGTON	ESTABLISH STATE COMMISSION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATE CABLE UNDER UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WEST VIRGINIA	ESTABLISH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
WYOMING	ESTABLISH A SECTION WITHIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO REGULATE CABLE also INCLUDE CABLE IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (FOR UNCABLED AREAS)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
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CONNECTICUT CABLE TV FACT SHEET

February 15, 1975

FRANCHISES AWARDED:	19	NUMBER OF SYSTEMS OPERATING:	9
TOWNS COVERED BY FRANCHISES:	99	TOWNS RECEIVING SERVICE:	21

OPERATING SYSTEMS

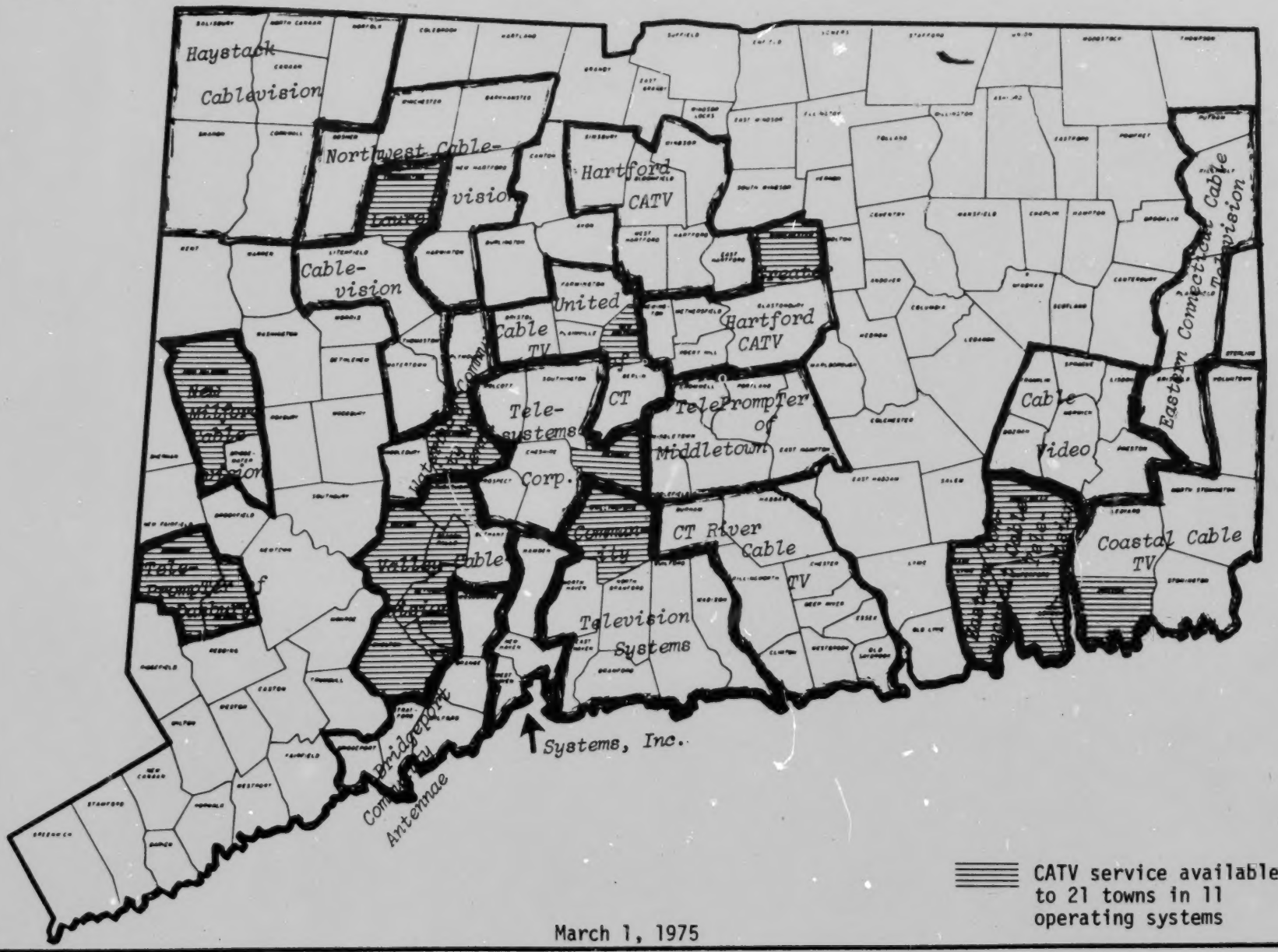
CATV COMPANY	TOWN(S)	NUMBER OF SUB-SCRIBERS	OTHER TOWNS INCLUDED IN FRANCHISE
Coastal Cable TV Co.	Groton	2,000	Ledyard, North Stonington, Voluntown, Stonington
Community TV Systems, Inc.	Wallingford	(ready to go)	East Haven, North Haven, Branford, Guilford, N. Branford, Madison
Eastern Connecticut Cable Television	New London, E. Lyme, Waterford, Montville	10,000	Plainfield, Killingly, Putnam, Griswold
Greater Hartford CATV	Manchester	(ready to go)	Wethersfield, Newington, Rocky Hill, Glastonbury
Laurel Cablevision	Torrington	2,900	Watertown, Litchfield, Thomaston
New Milford CATV	New Milford	2,000	Bridgewater
Teleprompter of Danbury	Danbury, Bethel	12,250	
Telesystems Corp.	Meriden	2,200	Southington, Cheshire, Wolcott, Prospect
United Cable TV of Connecticut	New Britain	1,500	Bristol, Plainville, Farmington, Berlin
Valley Cable Vision Co.	Shelton, Naugatuck, Ansonia, Seymour, Derby, Oxford, Beacon Falls	12,000	Bethany
Waterbury Community Antenna, Inc.	Waterbury	5,500	Plymouth, Middlebury
TOTAL:	21 towns	50,300	33 towns

CONNECTICUT CATV FRANCHISE HOLDERS - JANUARY 1975

FRANCHISEE	CONTACT	TOWNS IN FRANCHISE AREA
BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY ANTENNAE TELEVISION CO. (TelePrompTer of Bridgeport) P. O. Box 484 (135 Main St.) Danbury, CT 06810	Frank Staley, Dist. Mgr., TPT of Danbury 792-0900	Bridgeport, Milford, Stratford, Orange, Woodbridge
CABLE VIDEO, INC. P. O. Box 272/Waterford 06385	Peter Matthews, Exec, Vice-Pres. - 442-8525	Norwich, Preston, Sprague, Lisbon, Bozrah, Franklin
COASTAL CABLE TV CO. 19 Moss Ledge Rd./Westport 06880	Bernard Perry, Pres. 226-6986	Groton, Stonington, Ledyard, N. Stonington, Voluntown
COMMUNITY TV SYSTEMS Box 667/Branford 06405	Mel Shlank, Pres. 481-3434	Wallingford, E. Haven, North Haven, Branford, Guilford, N. Branford, Madison
CONNECTICUT RIVER CABLE TV c/o Moss Ledge Rd./Westport 06880	Bernard Perry, Pres.- 226-6986	Clinton, Old Saybrook, Essex, Durnam, Haddam west of CT River, Westbrook, Deep River, Chester, Killingworth
EASTERN CONN. CABLE TELEVISION, INC. - P. O. Box 272/ Waterford, 06385	Peter Matthews 442-8525	New London, Waterford, Plainfield, Montville, Killingly, East Lyme, Putnam, Griswold
GREATER HARTFORD CATV - 801 Parker St./Manchester 06041	Vincent King, Mgr. 646-6400	Manchester, Wethersfield, Newington, Glastonbury, Rocky Hill
HAYSTACK CABLEVISION, INC. 510 Main St./Winsted 06098	Nicholas Eddy, Pres. - 379-2758	Salisbury, North Canaan, Norfolk, Sharon, Cornwall, Canaan
HARTFORD CATV - 611 New Park Ave./West Hartford 06110	Raymond A. Petow, Mgr. - 233-6228	Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor, Bloomfield, Simsbury
LAUREL CABLEVISION, INC. P. O. Box 516 (339 Main St.) Torrington 06790	Monroe F. Rifkin, Pres. - 489-0135	Torrington, Watertown, Litchfield, Thomaston
NEW MILFORD CATV - (30 Elm St.) P. O. Box 237/New Milford 06776	Paul M. Hancock, Pres. - 355-0115	New Milford, Bridgewater
NORTHWEST CABLEVISION, INC. 110 Main St./Winsted 06098	Anthony S. Katona, Mgr. - 379-2288	Winchester, Harwinton, New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Goshen
SYSTEMS TV, INC. (109 Church St., Rm. 608) P.O. Box 3027/New Haven 06515	Matthew Jenetopulos, Pres. - 389-5321	New Haven, West Haven, Hamden
TELEPROMPTER OF DANBURY (135 Main St.) P. O. Box 484/ Danbury 06810	Frank Staley, Dist. Mgr. - 792-5572	Danbury, Bethel
TELEPROMPTER OF MIDDLETOWN (office closed 1973)	Frank Staley - Danbury 792-5572	Middletown, Portland, Cromwell, East Hampton, Middlefield
TELESYSTEMS CORPORATION 683-685 E. Main St./Meriden 06450	William Chain, Mgr. 634-1680	Meriden, Southington, Cheshire, Wolcott, Prospect
UNITED CABLE TV OF CONNECTICUT 319 Cooke St./Plainville 06062	Russel Johnson 747-6891	New Britain, Bristol, Plainville, Farmington, Berlin
VALLEY CABLE VISION CO. 80 Great Hill Rd./Seymour 06483	David A. Coe, Mgr. - 735-9505	Shelton, Naugatuck, Ansonia, Seymour, Derby, Oxford, Bethany, Beacon Falls
WATERBURY COMMUNITY ANTENNA, INC. 24 E. Aurora St./Waterbury 06708	John Baker, 757-2400	Waterbury, Plymouth, Middlebury

(19 areas) (99 towns)

CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISES AWARDED IN CONNECTICUT (19)



March 1, 1975

WHAT IS CATV?

Back in the early sixties when the General Assembly authorized the PUC to franchise community antenna television companies, few legislators would have imagined what advanced cable technology would bring. A decade or so later an article in the *Hartford Courant* described cable as follows:

CABLE NO LONGER MERELY A MASTER COMMUNITY ANTENNA FOR TELEVISION

> *Cable television is a system of picture and sound transmission through cables into people's homes over standard television sets. Reception is excellent because the signal is protected by cable -- no static, no ghosts, no interference. As many as 64 channels can be used for voice and non-voice communications between home and a television studio, school, museum, library, bank, hospital, police, fire department, and the like, and can be used also for meter reading, burglar alarms, facsimile of newspapers, record keeping, mail, messages, opinion polls, and so on. Even by excluding the most sophisticated uses, cable television can receive up to 65 channels providing every type of programming from entertainment to education to public information to religious services to sports to consumer information.*

See diagram, Bold New Concept, and *Cabletter* for description of technology.

NEW TECHNOLOGY AUGMENTS CAPABILITIES OF CABLE

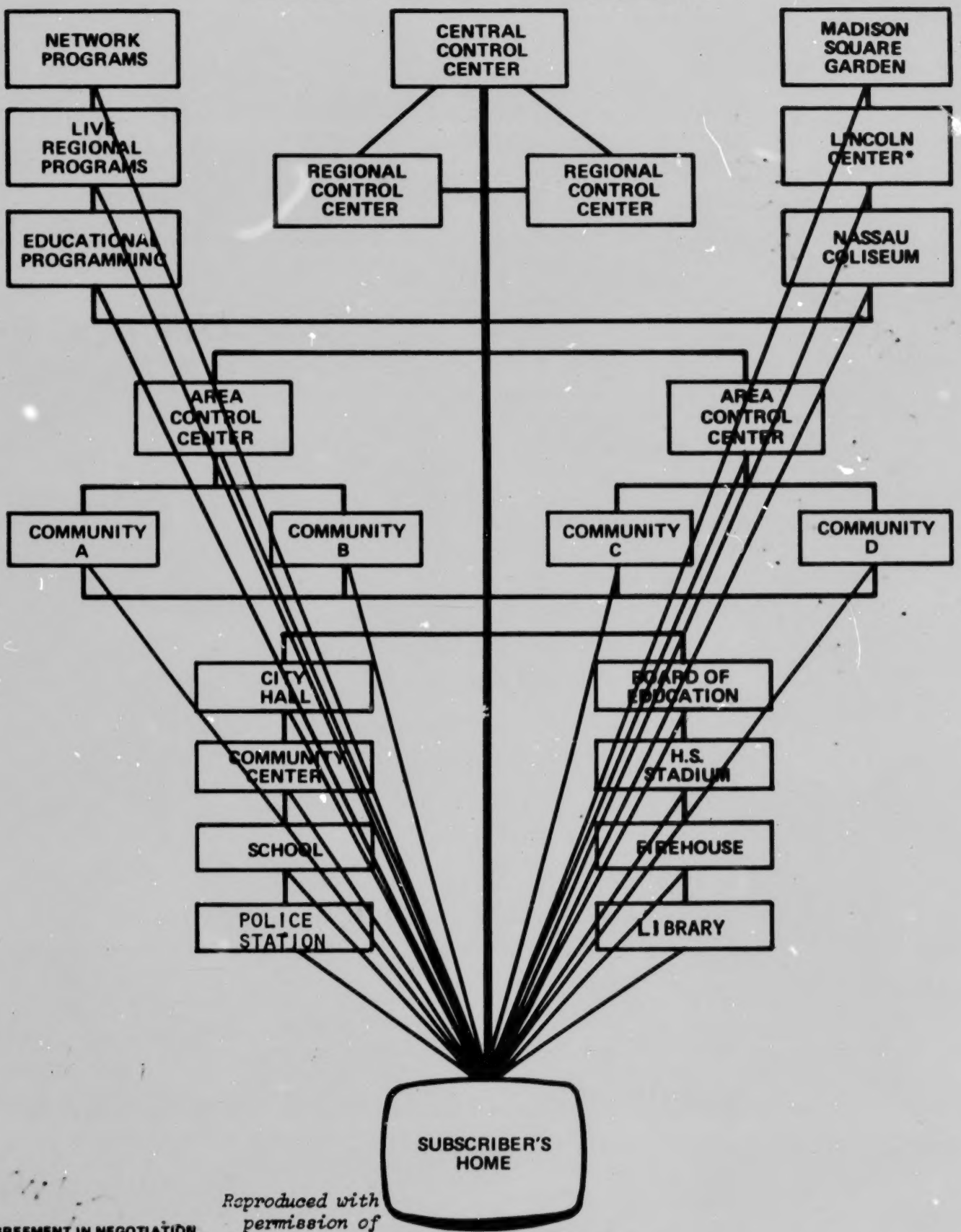
With interconnection and networking via satellite not far in the offing, cable will be able to serve large and small groups of people everywhere for as many purposes as people will invent.

CABLE INTERFACE WITH OTHER INDUSTRIES RAISES COMPLEX ISSUES

The rapid advance in technology has linked cable telecommunications with major national industries -- television and radio broadcasting, telephone, motion picture and music, electonic data processing, and communications satellites. These linkages have given rise to hotly contested issues, most of them yet to be resolved.

The complexity of the issues poses problems for ready access to cable telecommunications in the public interest.

BOLD NEW CONCEPT



*AGREEMENT IN NEGOTIATION

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UA-COLUMBIA CABLEVISION Inc.

FROM TALKING BACK: CITIZEN FEEDBACK AND CABLE TELEVISION

Edited by Ithiel de Sola Pool

The MIT Press 1973
Cambridge, Massachusetts
and London, England

Excerpt from PART I--WHAT CABLE CAN BRING, Section 4--"Community Control of Cable Television Systems" by Charles Tate, staff member of the National Cable Information Service in the Urban Institute, Washington, D. C.

pp. 59-60

DO material
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cable television provides a substantial opportunity for urban minority communities to develop and control the most powerful cultural and social instrument in their communities. It can also provide a viable economic base and political leverage for power-deficient communities.

A partial listing of the wide variety of program uses will give some idea of the development possibilities:

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Educational Uses

Video correspondence courses

Special education programs for unskilled workers, housewives, senior citizens, and handicapped persons

Home instruction for students who are temporarily confined

Adult education programs

Exchange of videotaped educational programs with other schools, for example, science, travel, and cultural programs

Interconnection of school systems to facilitate administration, teacher conferences, and seminars

Greater use of computerized testing and grading—thus giving teachers more time for individual instruction.

Health Uses

Interconnection of medical facilities (private offices, clinics, hospitals) to provide a wider range of consultation services to patients on an emergency or nonemergency basis—especially those without means of transportation

Wide dissemination of preventive medical and dental information to the community

Information programs concerning sanitation, sewage, rat control, garbage control, and similar problems.

Legal and Consumer Uses

Listing of substandard and abandoned housing

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Review of leases, agreements, and installment contracts

Discussion of labeling, marking, pricing of food, drug, clothing, automobile, and other consumer products

Establishment of a "hotline" in legal aid and consumer protection agencies to provide immediate notice of fraudulent and exploitative practices

Use of videotaped records and depositions in nonjury cases.

Safety Uses

Installation of fire emergency and burglar alarm systems in every home (these systems can operate over the same cable that brings in video signals)

Automatic gas, water, and electric meter readings

Rumor control

Disaster and emergency warning systems.

DO NOT film

Cable Information Services
Connecticut State Library - Room 601
231 Capitol Ave./Hartford 06115

Cabletter

HOW CABLE TELEVISION WORKS

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE • THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

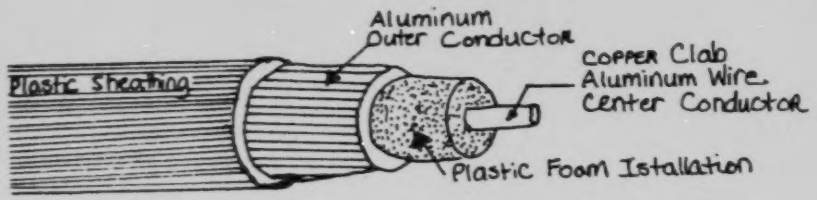
HOW CABLE TELEVISION WORKS

By Natasha Hertz summarized from Pilnick's and Baer's *Cable TV: A Guide to the Technology.*

Cable Television is a communication system that distributes television signals and other information by wire rather than through the air. The signals are transmitted through a coaxial cable which can be laid in the ground or strung onto telephone poles.

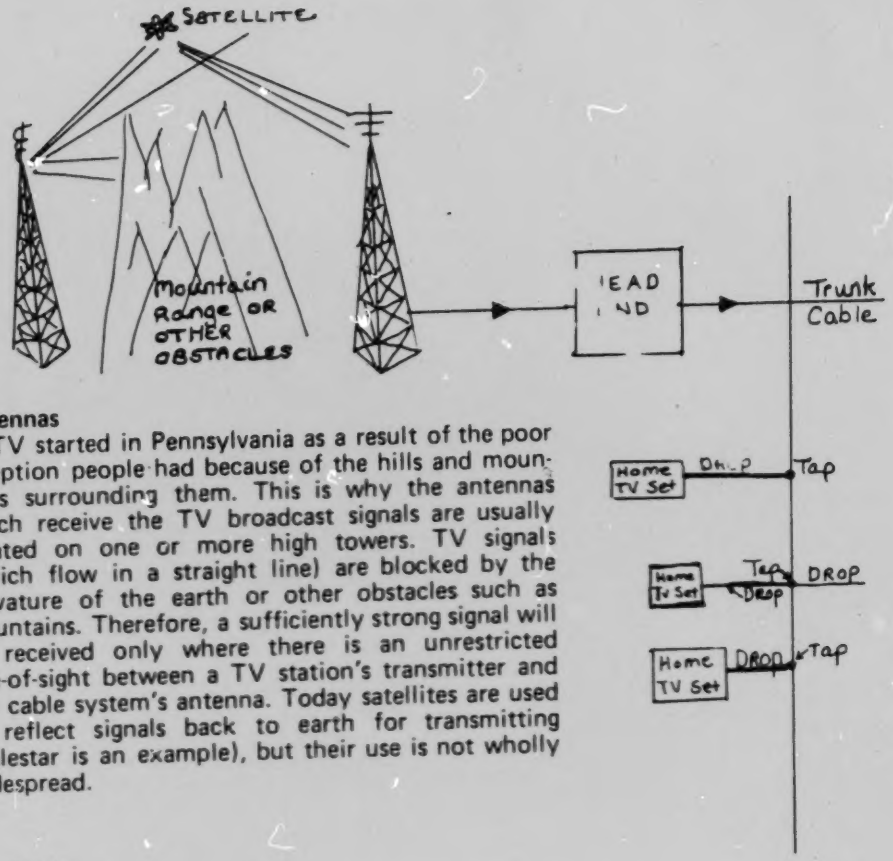
The cable itself is just one kind of information transmitter no different in principle from a telephone wire or a wireless communication link such as broadcast radio or television. In each case, information is sent as a varying electrical signal generally superimposed on a high-frequency carrier. The higher the frequency of the signal, the more information the system can transmit.

The advantages of using a coaxial cable are such that it allows for a much greater transmission of information flow which is why cable offers so many more television channels for entertainment, plus a large number of data services for health, education, and recreation. This also explains the difference between the terms "broadcasting" (which is utilization of the air waves for information to reach a large, general audience) and "narrowcasting" (information directed at specialized audiences through a wire).



Elements of a Conventional Cable System

1. Towers and Antennas
2. "Headend"
3. Cable distribution networks
4. TV Receivers (Home Cable Terminal)



Antennas

CATV started in Pennsylvania as a result of the poor reception people had because of the hills and mountains surrounding them. This is why the antennas which receive the TV broadcast signals are usually located on one or more high towers. TV signals (which flow in a straight line) are blocked by the curvature of the earth or other obstacles such as mountains. Therefore, a sufficiently strong signal will be received only where there is an unrestricted line-of-sight between a TV station's transmitter and the cable system's antenna. Today satellites are used to reflect signals back to earth for transmitting (Telestar is an example), but their use is not wholly widespread.

Headend

From the cable antenna, each broadcast signal is connected by the cable to the headend facility, usually located in a small building near the tower. In a city, this might be the office building upon which the receiving tower is mounted. The headend contains all the equipment necessary to process the signals for distribution on the cable network. The headend may also have other types of equipment such as a small computer or automated switching system that will add the use of the computer in the home for education, shopping, or home management purposes. It could also interconnect with other cable or computer systems anywhere in the country and provide other special services such as Pay TV.

The Cable Distribution Network

The main cables that carry signals from the headend are called trunk *cables*. They are usually ½ or ¾ inch in diameter, but may be as large as 1 to 1¼ inches. The larger diameter cables are used to carry signals for longer distances since they attenuate (let signals lose some of their strength) signals much less. When a trunk cable passes a residential street or other area of high subscriber density, a smaller distribution or *feeder cable* is used to distribute signals from the trunk to that area. Feeder cable are similar in construction to the trunk cable but are smaller in diameter, being usually a little less than ½ inch. From there, a small *drop cable* brings the signal from the closest feeder line into the subscribers home. A coupler, or *tap* connects the drop to the feeder cable.

An added expense to most cable systems is the necessary installation of amplifiers throughout the system since nearly all signals attenuate somewhat and there is a need to reamplify them. They are usually located at the trunk cables and therefore referred to as trunk amplifiers.

Building the conventional one-way cable system described above typically costs about 60-70 dollars per home passed by a trunk cable, if most of the construction is aboveground. Assuming fifty percent of the households in an area subscribe, the system's initial construction costs are about $120-$150 per subscriber. Many CATV systems which distribute only television broadcast systems have been built for considerably less.

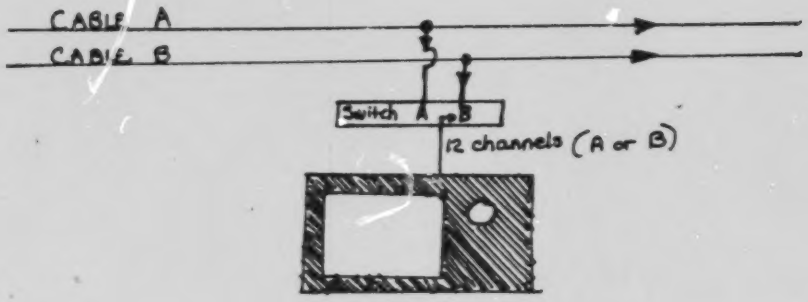
Home Cable Terminals

At the subscriber's home the drop cable may connect to a small transformer that matches the characteristics of the cable to the imput of the TV set. Many new cable systems use the set-top converters to provide more than twelve channels. The subscriber may also want to have a switch to connect their set with a rooftop antenna, should the cable system fail.

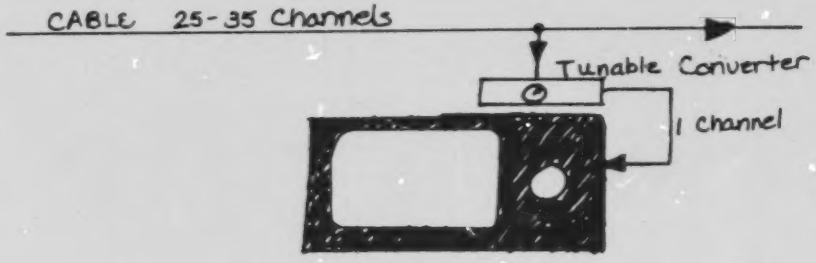
There are three other possible systems above the twelve basic channels

1. Dual-cable system
2. Systems with converters
3. Switched systems

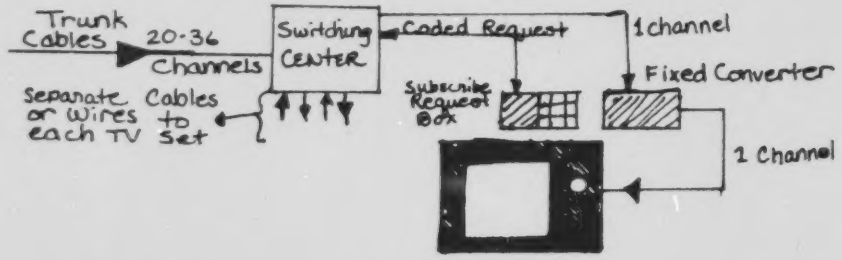
Dual-cable system — if one cable can deliver twelve directly selectable channels to the TV set, an obvious solution to expanding capacity is to use two or more cables. The subscriber is furnished with a two-position "A-B" switch which can connect one of the two cables to the television set at any given time. This doubles the viewing capacity. Dual or multiple cable systems are about 50 percent more expensive than single cable systems. The principle advantage to the multiple cable system is its simplicity. It eliminates converters, which are problem components, making the system more reliable.



Systems with converters — a converter changes a non-standard frequency channel to a VHF channel that can be tuned directly to the subscriber's TV set. In effect the converter replaces the old TV set tuner and provides more channel positions. Channels may be selected with a dial like the conventional TV tuner, a slide lever, or push buttons.



Switched systems – switched systems provide a completely different approach to expanded channel capacity by placing channel selection outside the subscriber's home. The two principle switch systems under development are the AMECO DISCADE and the Rediffusion systems. Both bring signals from a headend to a switching center that serves from twenty to several hundred subscribers. Two separate wires are cables which run from the switching center to each subscriber receiver. One wire carries subscriber requests to the switching center, while the other returns the selected TV signal.



This brief explanation on how cable works is just the beginning of understanding the many issues and potentials of cable. At present, there is a pressing need in two areas: 1) To provide for the future of two-way cable systems, segmenting neighborhoods for varying programming, and the selection of special services... 2) Learning and obtaining advice pertaining to cost implications so as to be able to discuss and control the cable company which has the franchise.

Natasha Hertz is a senior at The University of Connecticut majoring in Communication. After completing her undergraduate program, Ms. Hertz plans to continue studies in urban planning and telecommunications.

Cableter is a creation of the Institute of Public Service and the Connecticut Cable Coalition. Its distribution to Connecticut public service personnel is an educational service intended to acquaint readers with local telecommunications issues and answers.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE COMMISSION

In the course of its first three months of operations the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications has gained a basic appreciation of the potential of cable telecommunications for public service purposes. The Commission has also learned first-hand that educators, officials and informed citizens are eager to take advantage of the new technology cable brings to improve the quality of life for the people of our State. Information was obtained directly at public meetings of the Commission in New London and Danbury. Statements were presented to the Commission at regular meetings in Hartford held at least twice a month. Some information has been transmitted to the Commission through staff and surveys conducted by individual Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD IN NEW LONDON AND DANBURY

Information offered to the Commission by groups and individuals already experienced in cable thoughtfully addresses some of the issues listed in the Commission's charge. Much valuable input of this nature was obtained at the Commission's public hearing at the Danbury Public Library, which operates the official municipal information agency in that city. The first cable system in the State was built in Danbury and began operating in February 1972.

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD AT SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

Because of the need to report to the General Assembly by February 15 the Commission postponed a public hearing in Seymour and has yet to schedule hearings in Meriden and other areas where cable systems are operating. Citizens' groups represented in the Connecticut Cable Coalition prepared extensive

statements to present to the Commission at Seymour. The Commission intends to hear these statements and to resume regional public hearings as planned.

WHAT ABOUT UNFRANCHISED AREAS?

The question of cable service for unfranchised areas or non-operating areas has also arisen. Most of southwestern Connecticut and the Windham area are unfranchised. In Bridgeport, New Haven and Middletown, where franchises were awarded, the systems have not been built. Construction in Hartford is stalled pending the outcome of litigation.

STATEMENTS PRESENTED

The following is a partial list of individuals and organizations that have submitted statements of opinion, reports or other information for the Commission's consideration.

Hartford Public Library
La Casa de Puerto Rico, Hartford
Norman Cohn, New Haven
Washington State Library
Rep. Clarice Osiecki, Danbury
American Society for Training & Development, Conn. Chapter
Connecticut Audio Visual Education Association
Connecticut Library Association
Connecticut Association for the Advancement of School Administration
Groton Public Schools
Trinity-Rensselaer Institute for Community Education
The Council for Educational Television Access of Danbury
Rev. Dr. John Gagnon, Clinical Coordinator, Danbury Hospital Day Treatment Program
Gerald Robilotti, Assistant Administrator for Education, Danbury Hospital
Gerald Dash, Darien
Kay Kohl, New Rural Society, Windham County
Peter Goldmark, Goldmark Communications
Darien Cable Commission
John O'Neill, Mitre Corporation, McLean, Virginia
Paul Capra, University of Connecticut
Arnold Posner, Cable-RAVE, Meriden
Harry Osgood, Area Cooperative Educational Services, New Haven
Connecticut Town & City Managers Association
Kas Kalba, Harvard University
John Wolfkeil, Supt. of Schools, Danbury
Dr. Howard Jacobson, University of Bridgeport
Hollis Huston, State Dept. of Community Affairs
George H. Murray, Institute of Public Service, University of Connecticut
Barbara Klein, Killingworth Local Advisory Coun.
Elizabeth Fast, Target '76
Peter Matthews, Eastern Connecticut Cable Television, Inc., New London
Bryan Sperry, Eastern Connecticut Cable Television, Inc., New London
John Writtner, Old Lyme Schools
Bernard Perry, Coastal Cable TV Co., Westport
Sydney Walton, West Hartford
Connecticut Higher Education Television Assoc.
Ivor Hugh, VOTU, West Hartford
Rev. Robert H. Naylor, First Congregational Church, Danbury
Connecticut Office of Civil Preparedness
Prof. William Melody, Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania
Stanley J. Quinn, Radio/TV Center, University of Connecticut

Groton Board of Education
Danbury Taxpayers Association
Danbury Chamber of Commerce
Equal Rights Commission, Danbury
Edmond DeVoe, Danbury
Mayor Charles Ducibella, Danbury
Mayor John Quine, Meriden
Stuart Porter, Danbury Public Library
Connecticut Cable Coalition
Russell Library, Middletown
Rotary Club, East Hartford
American Association of University Women, Greater Hartford and Clinton-Killingworth Chapters
Bernard Z. Friedlander, University of Hartford
Josh Smith, Community Renewal Team, Hartford
New London Public Library Board
Danbury Public Schools, Dept. of Adult Education
Danbury Commission on the Aging
The Cable Television Education Planning Committee, New Haven
Connecticut Council on Human Services
Middletown Ad Hoc Committee for Cable TV
Middletown Commission on the Arts and Cultural Activities
Local Advisory Council for Cable Television: Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Simsbury, Bloomfield, Windsor
Sydney Rauchbach, Groton Public Library Board

NEEDS FOR STATE SUPPORT CITED

Common to all presentations to the Commission is the call for an unequivocal State policy to support public use of public channels. Cited as needs are training and equipment, technical assistance, research and development, public information, and assured access to channels, in short, formulation of a coordinated State strategy to develop the potential of cable in the public interest. Affluent and less affluent communities alike look to the State to develop public policy for public use of cable. The consensus of informed opinion supports the view that the quality of life in Connecticut is at issue.

Some of the concern expressed to the Commission stems from the chronic state of flux of Federal regulations pertaining to cable. In capsule, current FCC access rules require cable systems operating in the top-100 markets, which cover most of

Connecticut, to make channels and simple studio facilities available to education, government and the general public free of charge for an experimental period of five years. If the channels are not well utilized, they can revert to the cable operator for other uses. Similarly, leased channels, if not used, could revert to the cable system after five years. The requirements for public access facilities, however, have been progressively reduced by FCC in the hope of relieving the cable industry of burdensome investment in public access at a time when capital for construction is scarce. The cutback is justified, says FCC, since public channels are not being used. A recent ruling also eliminates the requirement for local origination in markets outside the so-called top-100. Local origination differs from public access in that the cable operator is responsible for programming the channel and is free to use advertisements to cover his costs. This ruling affects only a few towns in Connecticut. One is New London, where local origination was recently all but suspended.

FCC REDUCES REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL CHANNELS

Indications are, moreover, that FCC may reduce the three access channels to one in the near future, at least in the case of systems constructed before 1972. A Cabinet Report to the President from the Office of Telecommunications Policy, recommending new legislation, already drafted, would also reduce the number of required access channels to one. In the face of these developments increasing numbers of Connecticut citizens must look to the State for assurance that time and support will be duly provided to allow for adequate experimentation with public uses of public channels.

CABINET REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ALSO RECOMMENDS REDUCING ACCESS CHANNELS

FCC-PUC RELATIONSHIPS

Because FCC has preempted regulation of the access channels, the Public Utilities Commission has deferred to FCC in access matters. In August 1972 PUC, which is the franchising authority in Connecticut, modified certain terms of franchises issued before the 1972 FCC Rulemaking. In making these changes at that time, PUC stated its conviction that it was "in the best interest of the Connecticut citizenry that Connecticut CATV franchises be consistent with FCC rules and regulations where practicable." On another occasion the Chairman of the PUC, reviewing the regulatory situation in Connecticut, observed that "the Congress and the FCC ... could have preempted CATV and left the states no jurisdiction at all. They did not do that but they basically left to the states only the power of franchising and rate setting."

In the face of mounting Federal restrictions on public access channels, however, the question arises: What expedients and incentives can Connecticut devise to assure the availability and utilization of public channels?

CONNECTICUT: A GOOD MARKET FOR CABLE

Many advantages, however, mitigate the prevailing uncertainties over Federal regulation. The Connecticut market for both conventional and innovative cable services is favorable. The education, business and professional communities as well as the cable industry are interested in developing public use of public channels. Equipment and expertise are widely available in schools and colleges. Technical assistance is available from a number of State agencies and institutions. Construction is proceeding apace, and the technology is advanced. Geography is compact.

COMMISSION AND LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS CAN STIMULATE GROWTH OF PUBLIC CHANNELS

Connecticut has also created a number of institutions to encourage innovation. Chief among these are the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications and the Local Advisory Councils, which can set into motion a statewide dynamic for the development of useful and interesting programming responsive to the interests of Connecticut people and the priorities of the State.

STATE OF THE ART REPORT IN PROCESS

The Commission is currently preparing a detailed report on the state of the art in Connecticut. Included in the report will be statements of what cable means to different organizations and sectors in Connecticut, with facts and figures about constituencies. The report will also include projections of programming likely to be developed for public channels in Connecticut. A later report will deal with alternative strategies and incentives for developing such programming.

STATE VIEWED AS HIGHLY ELIGIBLE FOR DEMONSTRATION FUNDS

There are officials in the Federal Government, in the cable industry, in research organizations who feel that Connecticut presents favorable characteristics for a major demonstration in public service uses of cable. A proposal for a feasibility study of statewide educational demonstrations using cable telecommunications was presented to the Legislature late in 1973 by the Mitre Corporation, an acknowledged leader in the field of system design for interactive cable services. (The Mitre proposal and testimony to the Commission are appended to File Copies of the *FIRST REPORT*.) The creation of the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications has heightened expectations that Connecticut will conceive a viable strategy to program designated access channels.

Successful implementation of the Commission's charge can attract talent and funds for cable research and development in Connecticut that will benefit the citizens of our State and serve as a much sought-after model elsewhere in the country.

NEED TO CLARIFY HOW CABLE WILL BE REGULATED UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION

To carry out the charge, however, the Commission will need the help of the Legislature in addressing important related issues. One of these is the impact of proposed changes in the Public Utilities Commission on the regulation of cable in Connecticut.

Another consideration is the opportunity to focus expertise in the statewide communications survey under way on the applications of cable technology to the educational and informational needs of children and adults wherever they live in our State. (The survey is discussed below.) The need to explore the use of cable as a trade-off in energy and transportation is particularly urgent in view of a request from the State Board of Education to the Commission to investigate the feasibility of using cable as a means of equalizing educational opportunity. The text of Commissioner Shedd's request appears in a section on education, below.

CAN CABLE BE USED TO EQUALIZE EDUCATION?

Much needed is a concerted effort to canvass systematically sources of Federal funds for cable-related purposes. Substantial amounts of funds applicable to the development of cable to enhance local communication are available, for example, under the new Federal Community Development Act. The Department of Community Affairs has applied for a $100,000 grant under the Act to assist local governments in developing the municipal channel (see section on the Government Channel, below). Larger amounts of such funds may be available to establish community information centers in branch libraries, for example; to cable-

cast community programs from state colleges and public libraries; to fund public information projects and programs. Funds for video equipment and TV production facilities are available under a range of HEW Federal titles for schools, colleges, libraries and public television. Funds are also available from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other sources. The Commission is currently investigating the availability of assistance from the Federal Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Department of Labor for the training of intergovernmental personnel. With support from the legislators and assistance from executive departments of the State the Commission could develop a coherent statewide strategy for seeking public and private grants and applying them to develop public use of public cable channels throughout Connecticut.

MAJOR SEARCH SHOULD BE MOUNTED TO OBTAIN AND COORDINATE GRANTS

High on the list of the Commission's priorities is the study of patterns of use of information services such as Library-line, the Governor's State Information Bureau, and certain "hotline" telephone services. Evaluation of the use of these services will be of great help in making decisions about the design of public cable programming in Connecticut. These services are valuable not only for the convenience and economy they offer in and of themselves but also for what their use may reveal about as yet unfilled information needs in Connecticut.

PATTERNS OF USE OF INFORMATION SERVICES CAN PROVIDE INPUT TO SYSTEM DESIGN

In this connection, it is of interest to note that an estimated ten per cent of calls to Library-line could use a video dimension to good advantage. Calls to Library-line are cost-effective in terms of conservation of manpower and material resources. A video capability might well reduce expenditures

further by cutting back the need for sending copies of documents. The opportunity for callers to scan the terminal of the New York Times Data Bank at the State Library would greatly enhance the value of this facility to State agencies, scholars and other researchers in Connecticut.

Communications needs for Connecticut State government and interrelated regional and local systems are currently being surveyed by the Applied Research Division of Booz, Allen and Hamilton, Inc. under the direction of the State Office of Civil Preparedness and the Connecticut Communications Coordinating Committee. The study will consider existing and alternate modes and levels of communications, including interface with communications systems in adjacent states and regions. The six major governmental areas to be studied are criminal justice and law enforcement agencies; conservation and human resources; health and emergency medical services; education; transportation; and general government. The study is due to be completed by June.

SURVEY COULD YIELD DATA ON COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Since any survey of communications needs in Connecticut would not be complete without consideration of cable, the Commission urges that the Booz, Allen and Hamilton study consider cable as an alternative mode for delivering a range of educational and informational services. Information from the study can be used immediately to facilitate planning and budgeting for the Board for State Academic Awards, which administers the external degree program, and for the State Board of Education. Both Boards are actively interested in exploring the use of cable as a cost-effective system for delivering educational services. Results of the study would also be applicable readily to a number of research, health and consumer services.

PUBLIC INFORMATION RADIO PROPOSED

Not to be overlooked is the fact that cable can deliver dozens of FM radio signals in addition to video. A proposal for regular statewide public information radio programs has been presented to the Commission for study.

CONTINUING STUDY ESSENTIAL

All these matters require informed decision-making, in which the Commission can play an effective role. It will not be enough, however, to list possible community uses of cable or even to provide free channels. Leadership and coordination will be needed to mount the promotional effort, programming effort, demonstration effort and financing effort that must accompany our good intentions. Continuing study is essential for optimal use of cable in the public interest to assure access to educational opportunity and free flow of information between citizens and government and among citizens themselves.

EXTENSION REQUIRED TO MAKE PROPER RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the factors and considerations cited herein it is recommended that the Legislature enact Bill 6708 proposed by Rep. Howard Klebanoff as follows:

> *That the reporting date of the commission established by special act 74-111 to study and make recommendations regarding the importance, development and future use of cable telecommunications for educational and informational purposes be changed from February 15, 1975 to February 15, 1976.*

LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR CABLE TELEVISION

PUC ESTABLISHES LOCAL COUNCILS TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY CABLE

In response to a petition and statements from a number of groups and individuals interested in effective use of designated access channels, the Public Utilities Commission established Local Advisory Councils for Cable Television in areas of the State where franchises have been granted. The Councils were established to encourage the development of community programming. A survey by the Commission shows that many appointments have not yet been made; a few Councils have not held their first meeting. Members of Local Advisory Councils are listed below by town. Thus far the appointment of 164 LAC members has been confirmed to PUC; many other appointments have actually been made, possibly totalling nearer 200.

COUNCILS LACK PRECEDENT AND GUIDELINES

Lacking precedent and specific guidelines, some Councils are finding it difficult to define their role. Since the Councils as such are constituted after the franchise has been granted, the opportunities and problems they address are those concerned with the construction and operation of the systems. In some cases, such as Danbury-Bethel, the system was substantially constructed before the PUC ruled that the Councils be established. Problems there have been minimized because an educational consortium was formed to produce community programs. The consortium is active and the City Council recently appointed a consortium member, the Danbury Public Library, to cablecast local programming.

DANBURY IS STATE'S FIRST MODEL FOR MUNICIPAL PROGRAMMING

STOP IN CONSTRUCTION SPURS MIDDLETOWN TO ACTION

Some Councils face dilemmas if construction has been greatly delayed or has started and stopped. In the case of Middletown effective local leadership emerged on an ad hoc basis to challenge the franchise when construction stopped.

COUNCILS WANT STATE LIBRARY TO CIRCULATE LAC REPORTS TO SHARE INFORMATION

A Commission survey confirms the evident need among the Councils and their communities for information about cable and its uses. A proposed exchange of information among Councils, viewed with favor and delegated by the PUC to the State Library, however, requires funds and staff which the Library now lacks.

USE OF ACCESS CHANNELS RAISES MANY QUESTIONS

Questions raised by the Local Advisory Councils and other groups interested in cable, as well as by the Commission itself, include the following:

1) Is the operator the appropriate supervisor of the access channels?
2) Can responsibility for supervision be transferred from the operator to the Local Advisory Council?
   a) How can a Council be responsive to the total community?
   b) How can the Council be protected from political pressure?
   c) Can the Council be vested with the authority to establish production facilities, create a training program for the community for use of the access channels, create programs, and schedule use of the access channels?
3) What constitutes "minimal equipment and facilities" for program production? How is it to be provided and managed? Can the State require a cable operator to install a time base corrector to facilitate the cablecasting of community-produced programs?

4) Where are differences in judgment on access programming settled? How is the public informed--and by whom--regarding access channel opportunities and rights? Should the operator be required to present announcements on local origination and access channels? Place notices in program guide? Place notices in local newspaper?

5) Can a reasonable percentage be provided on gross receipts of the cable operation for administration by a local cable citizens board? Would such an investment enhance the value of the system and thus be of value to the operator?

6) What other funding sources should be considered?

7) What is meant by "first-come" on a "non-discriminatory" basis? How is this to be implemented? Can a local controlling authority be established?

8) Can the State require more technical capability for two-way communication than that required by the FCC? For example, can the State require interconnection of educational and other public institutions? With two-way video and voice audio capability?

9) Do cable systems in Connecticut require authorization from the State to interconnect discrete regional systems via microwave or other technology?

10) Does the cable operator need safeguards from the State in terms of unreasonable demands for production assistance, equipment, staff? Do minimum and maximum standards need to be established?

These are only some of the questions that Local Advisory Councils in Connecticut are addressing as educators, officials, citizens and cable company representatives meet in their early sessions. Since the Federal Government preempts regulation of the designated access channels, the Public Utilities Commission did not issue guidelines for the Councils. Federal rules for cable access issued in 1972, moveover, were general in nature and are in process of modification.

CONNECTICUT LOCAL COUNCILS MAY DEVELOP DIVERSE MODELS

The absence of specific guidelines for the Local Advisory Councils, however, can work to the advantage of cable and community programming in Connecticut. After assessing the needs and interests of their respective constituencies, the Councils may well develop various models of modus operandi. The multi-town nature of the franchise areas will foster the early development of interconnected programming that may be of interest to a larger audience. LAC reports and minutes collected by the State Library will constitute valuable documentation of citizen opinion about cable in the industry's early stages of development in Connecticut.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR CATV, BY FRANCHISES

BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY ANTENNAE TELEVISION

Bridgeport

Denis Lorenz

Milford

Robert W. Shields

Orange

Mrs. Myrtle (Roby) Raymond
Howard W. Muschmeier

Stratford

George Puglisi
Dennis E. Broedlin
Edmund A. Dorne
Richard P. Gilardi

CABLE VIDEO, INC.

Bozrah

Joseph J. Reardon

Franklin

Anthony Carboni

Lisbon

Walter Mish

Norwich

Edward W. Leonard
James Quarto

Preston

Fred Gale

COASTAL CABLE TV CO.

Groton

Mrs. Elizabeth Fast
Sidney Rauchbach
Hilmar P. Burgess
Bernard Perry

Ledyard

Joseph M. Cardelle

Mystic

Gerald Smith
Archie C. Swindell

North Stonington

Kenneth M. Shaw

Stonington

Alfred Wilcox

COMMUNITY TV SYSTEMS

Branford

Ruth Clark
Diane Maguire
Melvin Schlank

East Haven

Vincent R. Gagliardi

Guilford

Mrs. James G. Baldwin
Robert M. Norman
Stanley G. Bomes

Madison

Robert G. Hale
Carl A. Ulferrs
Ms. Barbara Sousa

North Branford

Thomas Darge
Arnold Cestari

North Haven

Anthony P. Fermo

Wallingford

Rosario DiNora
Joseph Kuczynski
Marion Rue

CONNECTICUT RIVER CABLE TV

Killingworth

Mrs. Barbara Klein

Old Saybrook

Thomas Shea

EASTERN CONNECTICUT CABLE TELEVISION, INC.

East Lyme

Milton Hillian
Mrs. Loretta Bernier
William DeMatteo

Griswold

Frank Zavistoski
John B. Wilcox

Killingly

Edward Allard, Jr.

Montville

Leonard Tyl

EASTERN CT., cont.

New London

Mrs. Dolores Schargus
Nicholas Gorra
Louis Massad
Wayne Vendetto
Ms. Astrea Powers

Plainfield

Edward Wiezbicki

Waterford

Rev. Kenneth Flint
George White
Dr. Evelyn Omwake

GREATER HARTFORD CATV

Glastonbury

Dennis Weir
Ms. Inez Hemlock
Mrs. Lori Juren
Robert Ford

Manchester

Robert B. Weiss
James Frozer
Mrs. Harriet Handley
Dr. Alfred Tychsen
Raymond R. Shea

Rocky Hill

Mrs. Wilma Fisher
Richard J. Conway
Mrs. Bertha M. Smith

Wethersfield

William J. Moriarty
Mrs. Barbara Molchan (alternate)
Ralph A. DeSantis
Richard Eigen
Thomas Lawton

HARTFORD CATV

Bloomfield

Edwin Gittleman
Mrs. Lee Kelmer
Mrs. Carol Carlisle
Herbert Chester

East Hartford

Ralph Secord
Mrs. Mary Tucker (alternate)
Sam Leone

HARTFORD CATV, cont.

Hartford

Allyn Martin
Thomas Standish
Ivor Hugh
Scott McAlister
Mrs. Barbara B. Kenny
Wilbur Crimmin
Charles Griffen (alternate)

Simsbury

Richard Huot
Mrs. Thomas W. Sharpless
Harley Park

West Hartford

Raymond A. Petow
Rev. Charles W. Gelbach
Dr. George H. Murray
Mrs. Alice M. DeLana
Robert Shea
Dr. Ira J. Singer

Windsor

Albert G. Ilg
Mrs. Ruth Budlong
Robert Platt
Robert Mocarsky
Arnold McFalls

HAYSTACK CABLEVISION, INC.

North Canaan

Donald Severance

Salisbury

John K. Bodel

LAUREL CABLEVISION, INC.

Litchfield

Joseph L. Berube
Chester A. Stover
Peter J. Gay

Torrington

Whitney L. Brooks
Samuel Byers
Andrew Quinn
Charles Hayes
Jonathan Hutchinson

NEW MILFORD CATV

New Milford

Rev. A. Russell Ayre
Joseph Geyer
Ira Meinhardt
Dr. Morris J. Rudner

NORTHWEST CABLEVISION, INC.

Barkhamsted

Peter Bakker

New Hartford

Mrs. Margot Krimmel
James Whittemore

Winchester

Anthony S. Katona
Robert C. DiMortino

SYSTEMS TV

New Haven

Stephen J. Papa
Mrs. Janice B. Fodero

TELEPROMPTER OF DANBURY

Danbury

John A. Wolfkeil
Stuart T. Porter, Jr.
Mrs. Kathie Calabrese
Rev. Robert H. Naylor
Atty. Jack D. Garmella
Antonio Seres

TELEPROMPTER OF MIDDLETOWN

East Hampton

Larry Selauka
William F. Smith, Jr.

Middlefield

Mrs. Edith Hoffman

Middletown

Charles Smith
Ms. Virginia Pettiross
Randolph Ryan
Arlene Bielefield

Portland

R. Richard Larke, Jr.

TELESYSTEMS CORPORATION

Cheshire

Arthur Frechette
Edward R. Vlozas
Mrs. Judith Fishman

Meriden

Arnold Posner

Southington

Nicholas DeLuco

Wolcott

Frank Levanti
Albert Linden

UNITED CABLE TV OF CONNECTICUT

Berlin

Dr. Rodger K. Nelson

Bristol

Henry Fitzgerald
Frank J. Longo, Sr.
Patrick J. McFadden
Carter Chamberlin
Val B. McCormack
Mrs. Marcella Finan

Farmington

Stephen A. Flis
W. Page Wodell

New Britain

Dr. Howard Root
Douglas O. Wardwell
Ms. Ruth Boyea
Ms. Pauline Mah
Edward Sasso

Plainville

Charles A. Venturi

VALLEY CABLE VISION CO.

Bethany

James W. Bailey
Mrs. Madeline Rabinowitz

Oxford

Thomas M. Costello
Edmund Guy Senesac

Seymour

John Kolinofsky
Joseph McWilliams

Shelton

David Brown
William Banfe
Stephen Zennick, Jr.
Edward C. Finn
Stephen F. Donovan

WATERBURY COMMUNITY ANTENNA

Waterbury

John Baker
Stanford Warshasky

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

MANY STATE COLLEGES HAVE EQUIPMENT AND FACULTY

State colleges, community colleges, state technical colleges and the University of Connecticut equipped with audiovisual, television reception and/or production facilities all provide a rich source of expertise in the educational television field. As shown by the accompanying chart, 21 state-owned colleges provided 650 weekly hours of use of their TV studios, master TV antenna systems, video tape recorders and multimedia auditoriums in 1973.

In addition, the facilities of Channels 24, 49, 53 and 71 of the Connecticut Public Television Network are a rich resource.

MANY SCHOOL SYSTEMS EQUIPPED FOR VIDEO AND TV

A number of school systems in the State and several public libraries are also equipped for video production. The Seymour High School, the Danbury Public Library, and a regional school grant project, Cable-RAVE, in Meriden are currently cablecasting.

INVENTORY OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY NEEDED

An important task to be addressed immediately is an updated inventory of TV equipment and expertise available not only in State-owned schools and colleges but also in private institutions, such as the Choate School, Yale University and Connecticut College. The College was equipped and used as the local origination studio by Eastern Connecticut Cable Television in New London until recently.

The inventory should also be extended to business and industry, which have indicated interest in assisting the Commission in its study.

Lightweight portable television equipment is also becoming available in Connecticut schools and colleges, a few public libraries and the State Library, some cable TV stations, and several video training centers.

TRAINING AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AT COLLEGES, TO LIBRARIANS AT STATE LIBRARY

Training in the use of portable equipment is available to enrolled students in schools and colleges. Training and loans of equipment are available from the Connecticut State Library to all public libraries in the State. The Studio operated by Norman Cohn in New Haven under a grant has trained many people who might not otherwise have access to video equipment and expertise. More information is needed about the demand for training and the extent of resources available.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE ONE OF FEW COLLEGES IN COUNTRY TO OFFER CAREER TRAINING IN CABLE

Particular note should be made of the fact that one of the few two-year academic programs in cable television in the country is offered at Middlesex Community College in Middletown. The program, which includes training in cable installations as well as video production, has just been accredited.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONALS ARE ASSISTING COMMISSION STAFF

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development has extended the expertise of its extensive membership to the Commission and lends its support to the educational possibilities that the Commission will develop. The Society, which has established a Cable TV Research Committee, has representatives from a wide range of the professions, business and industry in Connecticut. Commission staff has met with the Committee and will develop, with the Committee's help, a list of programming possibilities in Connecticut.

TELEVISION EQUIPMENT AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Institutions	TV Studio	Weekly Hours in Use	Master TV Antenna	Weekly Hours in Use	Multi-media Auditoriums	Weekly Hours in Use	Class-room VTR's	Weekly Hours in Use
University of Conn. including Health Center (McCook Hospital)	1	14	1	1	1	3	34	72
State Colleges including Southern, Central, Eastern, and Western	4	73	4	138	8	70	45	104
Community Colleges including Hartford, Housatonic, Manchester, Mattatuck, Middlesex, Mohegan, Northwestern, Norwalk, Quinebaug, South Central and Tunxis	2	33	2	5	0	0	18	83
State Technical Colleges including Hartford, Norwalk, Thames and Waterbury	0	0	2	6	2	6	3	30
TOTAL: 21	7	120	9	158	11	73	100	299

Source: IMPROVEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: ALTERNATIVE MODES FOR EARNING UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AND COLLEGE CREDIT, A Report to the Governor and the General Assembly from the Connecticut Commission for Higher Education, January 1973.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Virtually every statement to the Commission emphasizes the need for a major effort to educate the citizens of Connecticut and their elected and appointed officials about the importance, development and future use of cable telecommunications.

COMMISSION'S STAFF HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ORIENTATION AND CONSULTING SERVICES

A major portion of the Commission's executive officer's time has been devoted to public information activities including speaking engagements, participation in or planning for workshops and seminars, personal and telephone consultations and correspondence with local, State and Federal officials, members of the press, librarians, teachers, students and community leaders; and publication of news releases and the weekly *Connecticut Cable Clips*. Briefings and orientations, amounting in several cases to as much as three or four full days of time, have been requested by two departments of the State; a committee of the State Legislature; four Federal agencies; nine Local Advisory Councils; two municipalities, a cable consultant to a municipality; a task force of academicians; and a number of State and local organizations, among them the South Arsenal Neighborhood Development Project in Hartford, Rotarians, American Association of University Women, the Middletown Ad Hoc Committee for Cable TV, Middletown Commission on the Arts, Middletown Public Library, Connecticut Cable Coalition, and the Connecticut chapter of the American Society for Training and Development. Many of these events are scheduled for late February, March and early April.

COMMISSION MEMBERS GIVE LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

Commissioners Robert Hale, Nolan Lushington, Virginia Pettiross, Ira Singer, and former Commissioners Ruth Clark and William Churchill have made public presentations and/or are actively engaged in developing video/cable activities in their communities. Ms. Pettiross, Mrs. Clark, Mr. Hale and Dr. Singer are members of Local Advisory Councils.

FUNDS NEEDED TO RESUME PUBLICATION OF *CONNECTICUT CABLE CLIPS* AT STATE LIBRARY

Connecticut Cable Clips, assembled weekly by the Commission's executive officer, was launched by the Connecticut State Library in September to meet the growing demand for current information about cable in Connecticut. *Cable Clips* has been the only vehicle monitoring the statewide cable scene for the public. Because of budgetary restrictions, the State Library has suspended publication of *Cable Clips*. There is no fiscal provision for continuance of the Library's Cable Information Services unit, established by the Library to support the Commission and to respond to the increasing demand for information. Prior to the formation of CIS, the Public Information Program for Connecticut Libraries, an information ombudsman Federal grant project operated by the Library from 1972-74, served as a statewide clearinghouse for cable information.

Cable Clips is distributed weekly to more than 2,000 readers, including Connecticut and federal legislators, all Connecticut news media, members of Local Advisory Councils, and all public, academic and law libraries in the State. The State Library's addressograph list has been greatly enlarged to accommodate individual requests. In addition, bulk mailings are sent to interested State agencies and to regional and statewide organizations, such as the Connecticut Cable Coalition, for internal distribution. *Cable Clips* has been commended by national cable

spokesmen in government, industry and public interest groups for its unique statewide coverage of cable.

SOME LOCAL PAPERS RELUCTANT TO COVER LOCAL CABLECASTING

A few local newspapers in Connecticut have been reluctant to publicize cable television's involvement in community programming. In some cases when stories about particular programs are published, reference to cablecasting of the program is omitted. This policy can inhibit public awareness of the practice and potential of public access. Reports on the Commission's operations have been virtually ignored by Connecticut's metropolitan newspapers, although the *Hartford Courant* and the *Hartford Times* editorialized favorably on the enabling legislation.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE, STATE LIBRARY TO PRESENT JOINT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

To give Local Advisory Council members, local officials and civic leaders a better understanding of cable in Connecticut, the Institute of Public Service, University of Connecticut, with the participation of the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut cable systems, will present a program of conferences, workshops and field work from September, 1975 - March, 1976. The program will address (1) public interest policy analysis, (2) the process and effects of applying cable research, (3) methods and techniques for the effective use of cable technology. Multimedia resources used in the program will be newsletters, videotapes, and other material emphasizing the environment and operation of cable in Connecticut. Director for the program is George Murray, a member of the staff at the Institute of Public Service (and a West Hartford Local Advisory Council member). The program's first bimonthly newsletter, to be published late in June, will be widely disseminated, particularly

in areas where cable franchises have been granted. Participation will also be open to interested Connecticut officials and civic leaders in areas as yet unfranchised for cable TV service.

PUC-SPONSORED BIBLIOGRAPHY WILL FEATURE INFORMATION ON CONNECTICUT

"Connecticut Perspectives," a portion of a cable bibliography to be published by the Public Utilities Commission in cooperation with the State Library, reveals the growing store of Connecticut-generated information about cable. Efforts are being made to obtain documentary videotapes of discussions, conferences and meetings to deposit at the State Library for reference. The Library has assembled a comprehensive collection of books and hard-to-find reports about cable. The collection was kept current until recently, when budget cuts curtailed the acquisition of all new books.

LIBRARIES WILL REQUEST COMMISSION TO SET UP PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

It should be noted that the Target '76--Libraries--Cable Task Force has dealt extensively in its cable research and planning with the development of public information services. The Task Force intends to present a working paper to the Commission in March, with the request that a public information subcommittee of the Commission be established, under the direction of library representatives. The Task Force's working paper will also address, for the first time within the Commission, operating concepts of community information centers.

CABLE AND THE SCHOOLS

Applications of cable technology to educational and informational services can bring significant advantages:

1) increased physical accessibility of services in the home, at school, at libraries, and at work
2) provision of additional services
3) improved quality of services
4) decreased unit cost of services

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUESTS COMMISSION TO EXPLORE USE OF CABLE TO RESOLVE "EQUALIZATION" DILEMMA

Faced with escalating costs and a mandate to provide educational resources on a more equitable basis, the State Board of Education has directed an urgent request to the Commission to investigate immediately the feasibility of using cable to help equalize educational opportunity in Connecticut. The request from Commissioner Shedd follows:

> *The State Board of Education strongly supports the exploration by the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications as to the feasibility of using cable telecommunications as a means of equalizing educational opportunity in Connecticut.*
>
> *The Board has long been interested and involved in the use of educational television as a means of bringing increased educational opportunity to the children of Connecticut. It, in conjunction with its special Television Council, is intimately concerned with a number of areas involved with Telecommunication uses in Education such as: suggesting objectives, subject areas, and content for school and adult educational broadcasts over broadcast and cable television; program production and evaluation; information transfer and computer access interconnections; and research in and the improvement of the quality of education by means of instructional telecommunications whether cable, open circuit, closed circuit, 2500 megahertz fixed service, or other technological devices.*
>
> *The State Board of Education therefore earnestly recommends that there be an immediate and concerted*

effort on the part of the Commission on Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications in full cooperation with state and other educational agencies to determine the ways in which this new service can be best utilized to equalize educational opportunity in Connecticut.

EDUCATIONAL USE OF CABLE IS HIGHLY DIVERSIFIED

In parts of the country where cable service is available use of educational channels is growing. Uses include special education programs for unskilled workers, housewives, senior citizens and the handicapped; home instruction for homebound students; adult education programs; computerized college courses; bilingual instruction; video correspondence courses. A 1974 survey of local origination conducted by the National Cable Television Association revealed that over 300 colleges and universities had produced programming for cable.

CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS ARE BEGINNING TO CABLECAST

Planning for educational cablecasting and actual programming are under way in Connecticut. The Council for Educational Access in Danbury-Bethel has been cablecasting programs for over a year, including high school equivalency courses. A ten-day career education program will be cablecast in March under the sponsorship of the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The Seymour High School and the Cable-RAVE project in Meriden are also cablecasting. Cable-RAVE, a Federally funded regional project directed by Arnold Posner, has trained many teachers in a five-town area in video and has begun cablecasting from its own studio in downtown Meriden. A computerized Educational Resources Center research project operated by the Area Cooperative Educational Services in New Haven has cablecast from the Seymour High School. More needs to be known about the possibilities these programs offer for all of Connecticut.

Planning by the Danbury Educational Consortium and the Target '76--Libraries--Cable Task Force is progressing. The following schematic presentation of school use of cable prepared by Elizabeth Fast for Target '76 shows how cable can enable schools to receive and cablecast programming and interact advantageously with other schools and the community.

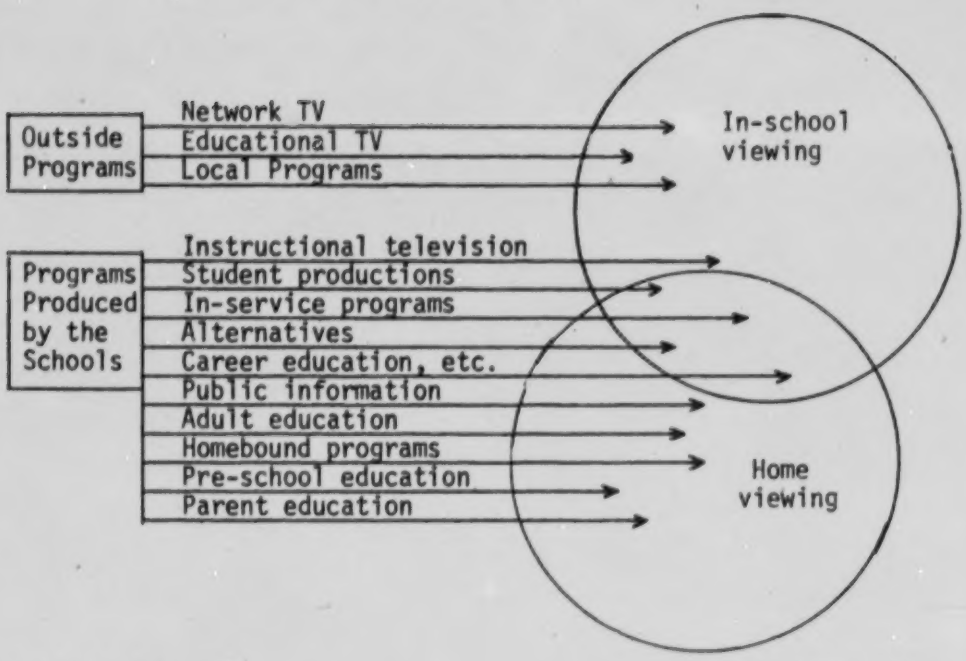
Following the diagram is a summary survey of audiovisual educators prepared by Robert Hale for the Commission.

TIMELY PROPOSAL TO STIMULATE BILINGUAL PROGRAMMING

Of particular interest to the Commission at this time is a proposal by Edna Negrón-Smith, a public member of the Commission, to stimulate bilingual programming through the use of cable. The Federal Government has admonished Connecticut for non-compliance with requirements to provide bilingual instruction. The proposal will be circulated for comment to Local Advisory Councils in areas of the State with substantial numbers of Spanish-speaking residents.

CABLE TELEVISION AND THE SCHOOLS

PROGRAMS VIA CABLE



SCHOOLS CAN GAIN --

* Improved community understanding of the schools
* Educational media potential for improving education
* Enhanced student self-image from productions
* Vocational education laboratory
* Economy in energy saving (adult education)

SCHOOLS CAN OFFER --

* Equipment
* Student help
* Faculty participation
* Facilities
* Program ideas to a community cable effort

COMPONENTS NECESSARY

TO RECEIVE PROGRAMS

* Cable drops to schools
* Receivers in the schools
* Wiring within the schools
* Staff receptivity to TV use

Optional:

Videotape equipment for added use

Storage and retrieval mechanism for programs which are videotaped

Overcome copyright problems on rebroadcasting

TO PRODUCE PROGRAMS

* Cameras and other production equipment (Portable 1/2" video units can be used)
* Videotape equipment
* Transmitting equipment
* Cable origination point in the school (or tapes can be shipped to central point)
* Staff time and expertise
* Students trained to assist
* Visual materials and program ideas
* Staff receptivity to TV production

Optional:

Storage and retrieval mechanism for programs which are videotaped

Overcome copyright problems on media incorporated into programs

(Elizabeth Fast, Groton Public Schools, for Target '76--Libraries--Cable Task Force 10/15/75)

A summary survey of Connecticut Audio Visual Education Association members follows:

1. Please list your ideas for programming cable television for education in our schools and community.

The following is a list of activities mentioned by respondents to the area of the programming:

Adult Education
Cultural Programming
In-service Programs
School Activities
Homebound Instruction
Instructional Programs during the regular school day
Public Relations
Preschool Programming
Public Information

By combining public relations, public information, school activities, and cultural programming into one category all based on a public relations approach a total of twelve people surveyed include this in their program plans. The next most popular programming area is adult education with five people responding: homebound instruction and instructional programming during the regular school day are tied with the in-service at two respondents each.

2. Are you currently involved with an active cable franchise?

There were six with a response who answered yes an indication of three of them having a positive relationship and there were thirteen respondents who answered no they were not associated with an active cable franchise.

3. Please indicate any other recommendations you would like considered by the Commission concerning regulation, programming, and/or utilization of cable television in Connecticut.

The following concerns were most prevalent:

1. Concern for regulation of the educational channel.
2. Concern for program planning.
3. Concern for finances.

The area of control of the educational channel appears to be one of the prime concerns of those surveyed with the financing and programming being a close second.

Robert Hale, for the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications, 2/15/75

LIBRARIES

LIBRARIES WANT TO USE CABLE TO GIVE PUBLIC GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The availability of new cable technology as a public and research communications medium has generated lively interest among librarians in the educational and informational uses of cable telecommunications. Perhaps the most cogent statement to date of the library position was voiced by the District of Columbia Public Library in testimony before Congress:

> *If the connection between public libraries and cable television is not immediately apparent, let me just point out that over a century ago when most information was contained in books and when books were very expensive, local governments in the United States established institutions to provide every citizen with free and equal access to available information. These institutions were called free public libraries. Today, when much information is communicated in newer and still more expensive media, it would seem an appropriate governmental concern to continue to guarantee all its citizens access to information in its newer forms. And it would seem logical for the public library to continue to exercise leadership in providing this information.*

LIBRARIES ELIGIBLE TO USE ALL TYPES OF ACCESS CHANNELS

Public libraries are eligible to use all three of the dedicated channels set aside by Federal regulation for experimental educational, governmental and public access programming. An increasing number of public libraries across the country are involved in video services and cablecasting.

DANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY CABLECASTS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Mention has been made above of the Danbury Public Library's producing and cablecasting municipal programming. It should be noted that the Library also cablecasts educational programs produced by members of the Educational Consortium and trains members of the community in videotaping production. The best local videotapes will become part of the Library's permanent collection.

MANY LIBRARIES ARE GEARING UP FOR CABLE

More than 30 public libraries in Connecticut interested in video services have received their first training in video production at the State Library. Some of these libraries intend to cablecast, others are planning to receive cablecast programs offered by the Board for State Academic Awards. Several have been approached by town officials to operate the local government channel. Many aspire to train the community in the use of video and serve as community access centers.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE WILL EMPHASIZE NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

By combining data banks, computers and cable technology libraries can deliver research and reference services to the general public and to special interest clientele. Some of the more sophisticated new library services will require the payment of user fees which can help support other public uses of cable that are not marketable. Proliferation of data and automated networks has led to the enactment of Federal legislation for a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Sciences to develop plans for a national information services network.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY HAS SPARKED DEVELOPMENT OF STATE POLICY FOR PUBLIC USE OF CABLE

The Connecticut State Library has played a significant role in the development of public information services about cable, the research and development leading to the establishment of the Commission, and the staffing and support of the Commission in its first months of existence.

THE GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

GOVERNMENT IS THE LEAST USED OF THE ACCESS CHANNELS

Although the 1972 FCC rules set aside one of the three designated channels for government, little use has been made of the government channel. A number of cities and towns, however, including Danbury in Connecticut, are operating municipal channels through city or city-county libraries. In heavily cabled West Virginia the State Library will operate a dedicated channel when the new State Library/Cultural Center is inaugurated in late 1976. The Natrona County Public Library in Wyoming is operating two channels: one for library services and one for community access.

MOST EXISTING GOVERNMENT CHANNELS OPERATED BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SETS UP CABLE UNIT

The Connecticut State Department of Community Affairs has established a cable unit to facilitate technical and financial assistance to towns interested in operating a municipal channel. Plans are to utilize programming and other technical expertise available at Central Connecticut State College in New Britain, Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven, Western Connecticut State College in Danbury and the University of Bridgeport with a grant from the Commission for Higher Education.

COLLEGES PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDS FROM CHE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM HUD

Additionally, DCA has applied to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for $100,000 in pass-through funds under the new Federal Community Development Act to help towns launch government channels.

Currently, DCA's cable unit is providing technical assistance to the City of Meriden in assessing needs, implications and

MERIDEN TO OPERATE MUNICIPAL CHANNEL

costs to operate a municipal cable channel. Contact has also been made with the City of Manchester, which has done preliminary research on cable with the assistance of the State Library and the Commission's staff.

DANBURY CITY COUNCIL OPERATES CHANNEL THROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Another candidate for DCA assistance is the City of Danbury, which requires additional equipment to cablecast government programs from the Public Library. The Library received a start-up grant for basic equipment last year from the State Library after being designated by the City Council as the official municipal information agency. The Library cablecasts from its premises a weekly town report sponsored by the Mayor. Speakers for programs to date have been the Mayor, the Comptroller and the Town Clerk. The Library also operates a 24-hour message wheel with municipal notices. A pilot program on veterans' benefits produced by the State Library in cooperation with the Regional Director of the Veterans Administration has been cablecast. Scheduled for heavy April showing are films from the Internal Revenue Service explaining how to fill out most frequently used tax forms. Films and emergency information from the Office of Civil Preparedness will also be cablecast.

UCONN'S INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVE IN CABLE COUNSELING

Orientation, consulting and training services about video and cable are also being provided to municipal staff and elected officials by the Institute of Public Service at the University of Connecticut, which has worked extensively with towns in matters of communications and automation. IPS will sharpen its focus on effective communications for local government with citizen participation in its Making Cable Work grant project described above.

MIDDLETOWN HIRES CONSULTANT

One city in Connecticut -- Middletown -- has appropriated $15,000 to obtain legal and technical consulting services about cable. Middletown is partially wired for cable, but construction was suspended last year.

Possible government uses of cable, of course, can be extended to include video monitoring of traffic, public safety -- providing emergency communication to fight crime, installation of fire alarms, automatic gas, water and electric meter readings, rumor control, disaster and emergency warning systems, computer access, staff training, access to City Hall for consultation and video reference, and many others. Emergency systems can operate over the same cable that brings in video signals.

HIGHER EDUCATION

As noted above, institutions of higher education in Connecticut are becoming involved individually and through State agencies in training and production for cable.

BOARD FOR STATE ACADEMIC AWARDS IS PRIME CLIENT FOR CABLE

Principal among higher education clients for cable is the Board for State Academic Awards which administers Connecticut's new external degree program. Intensive work in the field has stimulated great interest and produced an increasing volume of inquiries and enrollments. A new upper division external degree program at the University of Connecticut may well involve the use of cable channels.

PLANNING, INCENTIVES, COORDINATION ARE NEEDED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In commenting on the extension of higher education beyond the campus through the use of cable, Kas Kalba of Harvard University says that higher education has found that "the real issues of using cable for higher learning have to do not so much with technology or even basic economics as with matters such as programming quality and distribution, institutional cooperation, testing and accreditation, faculty incentives, and so forth." Although this area of concern has not yet been addressed, the Commission notes with favor that the need for alternative post-secondary education has already drawn the Board for State Academic Awards and the public libraries of Connecticut into a cooperative relationship with a view to utilizing cable. The Department of Community Affairs, in cooperation with colleges, has undertaken to

BSAA AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO COOPERATE

UCONN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO OPERATE WORKSHOPS

facilitate the use of municipal channels making funds and technical expertise available to towns, as noted above. In addition, the Institute of Public Service at the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Library and the Commission for Higher Education have developed plans for cooperative public information workshops and field work in the public use of public channels. These spontaneous efforts to join forces indicate directions to be pursued in studying and making recommendations on the importance, development and future use of cable for educational and informational purposes.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CABLE USEFUL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Cable is an ideal medium for the dissemination of preventive medical and dental information, information programs on sanitation, garbage and rat control, and interconnection of medical facilities to provide a range of consultation services to patients on an emergency and non-emergency basis -- especially to those without means of transportation.

In the field of social services, Michigan State University is testing the use of cable to recruit, screen and train foster parents. A college in Illinois is using cable to train parents of handicapped preschoolers to prepare their children for entering school as regular students. In Connecticut, planning by the Council on Human Services to integrate regional information and referral services into a statewide system presents a possible cost-effective use of cable. Cable may also be an appropriate medium for new preventive services the Council plans to develop.

COUNCIL ON HUMAN SERVICES PLANS I & R SYSTEM

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY DR. JAMES LIEBERMAN, DRAFTS WORKING PAPER

A committee on needs and opportunities in the health services sector will begin a series of meetings starting the last week in February. A working paper, *Telecommunications in the Health Field*, has been prepared under the direction of Commissioner Selma Markowitz, Executive Director of the Connecticut Institute for Health Manpower Resources, to serve as a basis for discussions. The Health Committee will be chaired by Dr. James Lieberman, former director of the National Medical Audio-Visual Center and member of the CIHMR Board.

COMMISSION TO VISIT UCONN HEALTH CENTER

At a meeting in March the Commission will view a slide presentation about video services and telecommunications at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED EXPRESS INTEREST IN CABLE

Statements have been made by or meetings held with a number of health service agencies including the Hartford Hospital, the Visiting Nurses Association, Danbury Hospital Education Department, Danbury Hospital Day treatment Program, and the Institute for Living in Hartford.

The Commission has also received statements from the Oak Hill School for the Blind in Hartford and the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford.

NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT POSSIBLE SITE FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION-FUNDED PROJECT

Northeastern Connecticut is being considered by the Mitre Corporation as one of several locations for a demonstration project in the delivery of health services to sparsely settled areas via telecommunications. National Science Foundation grants will fund the Mitre health service demonstrations.

The New Rural Society telecommunications project, directed by Peter Goldmark in Windham County, also addresses the possibility of televised health services.

NO NEWS FROM WINDHAM REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY ABOUT CABLE

More information is needed about the implications of the Federally-funded NRS project for Windham County and Connecticut. Applications for cable franchises were suspended by the Public Utilities Commission several years ago at the request of the Windham Regional Planning Agency. Nothing has been heard from Windham about cable since.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Many agencies and institutions in Connecticut, both public and private, have telecommunications links to computers and to agencies elsewhere in the country. The Area Cooperative Educational Services in Hamden; computer links from the Connecticut State Library, University of Connecticut, Trinity College, University of Hartford, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Yale University, Wesleyan University, public libraries in Hartford, Stamford, Old Greenwich and Stratford to the Ohio College Library Center; the Four Library Research Group, which includes Yale University; the Capitol Region Drug Information Center's connection with DRACON, the National Computer Bank of Information on Drugs in Washington, D. C., are examples of some of Connecticut's educational and informational network linkages.

CABLE-SATELLITE NETWORKS

Connecticut's initiative in establishing the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications is very timely in view of significant developments for educational communications on the national scene. A

FEDERAL AGENCIES ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE SATELLITE CONSORTIUM

Public Service Satellite Consortium has been established with the support of the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare, the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy and the Office of Management & Budget. The Consortium has been formed because of the scheduled repositioning to India in June of the ATS-6 satellite, after only six months of educational experimentation in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountain areas of the U.S. The functions of the Consortium will include coordination of telecommunications activities of public and private institutions and agencies concerned with the delivery of educational, health and other public services; identification of potential users and negotiation with potential providers of services to obtain communications

COST-SHARING SERVICES FOR CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

capabilities on a bulk basis; cost-sharing services to Consortium members; development of practices to foster experimental uses of telecommunications; provision of technical assistance to potential participants. Not contemplated are the production, distribution and marketing of programming by the Consortium.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS INVITED TO MEET

A meeting of the Consortium and other prospective satellite users will be held in the spring to develop a coherent strategy for a public service satellite. The Ford Foundation

reportedly will make a last contribution to public television by extending a long-term low-interest loan to the Public Broadcasting System, a Consortium member, for purchase or construction of a satellite and 50 earth stations. Legislation has been drafted by the Office of Telecommunications Policy to fund cable-satellite experiments through HEW. The satellite can be operational by 1977, perhaps as early as late 1976.

PLANS FOR HEW INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR CABLE-SATELLITE EXPERIMENTS

The Commission intends to consult immediately with appropriate officials in Connecticut, the New England region and Washington about effective representation for Connecticut at this satellite meeting with a view to membership in a consortium.

COMMISSION TO CONSULT ABOUT CONNECTICUT PARTICIPATION IN CONSORTIUM

The advent of a Public Service Satellite with Federally sponsored incentives for cable-satellite experimentation requires policy-making of the highest order to assure that Connecticut people have a hand in the design of the communications scheme of things to come.

APPENDICES

TO THE FIRST REPORT TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

April 5, 1974

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4200-G

Ms. Margaret Cleland
Director, Public Information Program
Connecticut State Library
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06115

Dear Ms. Cleland:

You have requested our comment on legislation (Education Committee Bill No. 5105) currently pending in the Connecticut State Legislature.

Promoting public understanding of cable television and studying ways to develop its educational and informational potential are worthy objectives which this Commission heartily endorses. Furthermore, the goals stated in the proposed legislation are consistent with the FCC's encouragement of innovative uses of educational and government access channels during this experimental period.

We understand that the Public Utilities Commission in Connecticut has also proposed the establishment of local advisory councils in each franchise area. Since libraries and boards of education are to be represented on these councils, cooperation with the PUC to achieve mutual objectives and avoid duplicative efforts might be an effective procedure.

With regard to your new publication Cable Libraries, we think it is commendable that you and your co-editors are working to increase public knowledge concerning cable television. Congratulations on the good work.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

David D. Kinley

David D. Kinley
Acting Chief, Cable Television Bureau

U.S. CABLE TELEVISION FACT SHEET - FEBRUARY 1975

National Cable Television Assoc./918 Sixteenth Street N.W./Washington, DC 20006

SIZE OF INDUSTRY

Number of CATV systems: approximately 3,200
Number of communities served: about 7,000
Number of homes served: nearly 10 million
Miles of cable plant in place: 180,000 miles
Penetration (homes served as a ratio of homes passed by cable): 55 percent
Saturation (total CATV subscribers as a ratio of TV homes): 14 percent
Estimated industry revenues for 1974: More than $500 million
Employment: 25,000 people

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Total Capital Investment: $1 billion
Construction costs: Range from $3,500 per mile in sparsely populated, rural areas to $8,000 per mile in urban areas. Construction in dense urban areas where cable must be laid underground goes as high as $80,000 per mile

FEES

Average monthly fee: $5.50
Typical one-time installation fee: $10 to $15

LOCATION

All 50 states plus Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam
Pennsylvania has the most systems: 300 systems serve more than 950,000 subscribers
California has most subscribers: 1,278,000 households served by 285 systems
Six states have CATV saturation of more than 25 percent (number of homes served by CATV as ratio of total TV households): West Virginia, Wyoming (both have more than 40 percent saturation), Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont

SERVICES

Retransmission of local broadcast signals
Importation of independent TV stations from nearby cities (subject to FCC regulations)
Origination of local (community-oriented) programs
News ticker, stock reports, weather reports
Public access, educational programming, local government access, pay cable
Pay cable TV subscribers: 130,000 subscribers
Pay cable operations: About 60 systems in 14 states
Pay cable fees: Installation -- about $10; monthly service: $6 to $8

Education Via Cable TV Urged

By J. GREG ROBERTSON

"Cable television can become a powerful force for the advancement of education in our time — or it can be a complete bust."

That is the conclusion of the Connecticut Association for the Advancement of School Administration in pressing for more influence by educators in cable TV (CATV) decisions.

"CATV can bring the long-awaited dream of continuing, life-long education closer to reality — or it can perpetuate much of the mediocrity currently available via commercial TV," says a report prepared for the school superintendents' group.

Ira J. Singer, assistant superintendent in charge of instruction and special services for the West Hartford school system, prepared the report.

Examples Given

Singer gives many examples of cable television uses for education. These include direct formal instruction, in-service teacher training, community information and education, and training students in television, production, writing, and station operation.

The system could also be used to produce short "experience" type programs by students for students, or to transmit school sports events or dramatic productions.

"Schools without walls" located in factories, schools, laundromats, supermarkets, and other public places could be tied together by cable television, he says.

Programming could include such standard courses as typing, sculpture or dance as well as programs on "what to do" in various situations—if you are arrested, in an accident, about to buy or sell a house, buy insurance, obtain medical care, shop wisely, or seek legal advice.

Other programs could explore career opportunities, housing availability, or could feature parent and student opinions on various school and local issues. Cable television programs could incorporate instruction for homebound students, or present educational games and stimulation for students and the general public.

With multiple channels available for educational use, Singer suggests uses such as rebroadcasting programs shown earlier. Channels could also be set aside for high speed remote video tape duplication, for computerized information retrieval, and for transmitting still pictures and documents on demand.

A separate channel could be set aside for reading instruction for pre-school children and others in the community, he says.

High Stakes

But the report notes that high stakes are involved in developing CATV nationally and in Connecticut.

About 4,000 cable systems are expected to be in operation by next year, and 5,000 by 1980.

But the cable audience will increase tremendously by 1980 to more than 25 million households and revenue will soar from the current level of about $300 million a year to more than $4 billion.

Currently, 16 franchises have been awarded in Connecticut, one is currently being considered, and three are scheduled for hearings by the Public Utilities Commission in September, the report says.

Public Utility

Under Connecticut law, CATV is treated as a public utility subject to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as well as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The Singer report points out that FCC regulations require that each franchise holder provide at least 20 channels in Connecticut's 100 most populous areas, with at least one channel provided for education use cost-free for a five-year period.

"If the channel is used wisely and well, the FCC may increase the number of channels allocated for educational purposes," Singer says.

The franchise holder is required to provide an additional educational channel at no cost if the first channel is being used 80 per cent of the available time, he says.

In larger areas, the franchise holder must provide studios and production equipment and each CATV system must be equipped for two-way communication, permitting clients to respond to video stimuli.

'Urgent' Singer emphasizes

"It is urgent that meetings be arranged with the franchise holder in order to insure compliance with the FCC regulations, negotiate auxiliary provisions and establish rapport which will be crucial to successful educational utilization of CATV."

To begin, he urges school superintendents and boards of education to start "immediate" dialogues with franchise holders, town officials, and other interested community groups."

Where franchises have not been awarded, educators can influence the selection of a franchise holder, says Singer.

Public officials should push for no-cost or low-cost wiring of low-income homes for cable television and for other policies such as establishment of training programs for minority youth in the CATV field

To finance public and educational programming, Singer proposes using a portion of the present 8 per cent state revenue tax on CATV or charging franchise holders a flat fee.

School systems should attempt to negotiate with franchise holders for free cable drops to all schools, free interchange with neighboring cable systems, technical assistance in planning and programming, and free or low cost viewing systems for schools, the report proposes.

A key to insuring dialogue and cooperation is to include school, community, and minority representatives on the advisory councils mandated by the PUC for each franchise. The preliminary PUC regulation specified municip aloiffcials and their appointees as members of the councils, but this is subject to change.

A spokesman for the PUC said this week that the commission will decide by the end of August on whether to include other groups in the advisory councils.

Representations

Various groups, such as public libraries, higher education institutions, and community groups such as the Urban League have pressed stongly for representation on the councils.

The Singer report urges school administrators, teachers, and boards of education to inform themselves "immediately" about CATV and join the fight for "educational and public gain."

Singer concludes that, "The greatest danger is public ignorance and apathy — common maladies which, in this case, can cause inestimable damage to the people's opportunity to communicate their concerns, acquire new skills, transmit their culture, share their creativity."

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Sunday, July 15, 1973

La Casa de Puerto Rico
January 29, 1975

A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TO STIMULATE BILINGUAL PROGRAMMING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL USE OF CABLE TELEVISION

Puerto Ricans in the United States face many problems that prevent them from participating fully as American citizens, a right which they have by birth. The limitations of some people in learning a second language -- English or Spanish, as the case may be -- so that communication can flow in both directions, particularly affects the Puerto Rican population. Somewhere along the way a myth has been perpetuated that monolinguism is a disease that attacks or runs in the blood of Puerto Ricans, exclusively. For this reason, citizens of Puerto Rican extraction are continuously subjected to negative stereotypes based in the inability of others to understand and communicate with them.

Mass communication cannot solve all problems, but cable television and cable libraries, concentrating in certain high-priority areas, could go a long way in the right direction. Cable TV has the potential to help or hurt communities. It can help community organization get access to the media heretofore unprecedented and provide superior education facilities for mass education. It can hurt by reducing personal contacts between people to a minimum, by possible elimination of half the postal jobs in this country, and by restricting public access, program diversification and community responsiveness.

The second possibility is something the Puerto Rican community is experiencing almost daily. The first option offers hope of dealing better with the reality of life among the Puerto Ricans on the U.S. mainland. Cable television has the potential to help minority people solve many problems and achieve a new plateau in self-determination and self-fulfillment -- a most vital concern to the Spanish-speaking population.

There exists in the Puerto Rican community in Hartford -- and increasingly in the State as well -- a solid core of individuals who have demonstrated abilities in the areas of education, drama, photography, film production, radio and TV programming and related fields, in both Spanish and English. The individuals are currently involved in creating a cultural renaissance among the Spanish-speaking population in the State of Connecticut. It is realized, however, that increased access to mass communication would not only produce cultural gains but improve educational, vocational and economic opportunities as well.

One key to the use of public access is quality programming, especially bilingual and in Spanish. It is of little use to have access to cable facilities and cable technology if there is no means to produce bilingual programming which is both dynamic and relevant to the needs of the Puerto Rican population. This brief proposal, then, is written in the hopes of accomplishing the following:

1. To establish bilingual programming as a priortiy item for educational use of cable television, programming which demonstrably accomplishes goals based on the needs of Puerto Ricans in the Hartford area.

2. To explore the possibility of demonstration grants to determine the most effective means of accomplishing the above.

For purposes of description, we may divide the programming into two categories: "Spanish language" (aimed at those who communicate primarily or exclusively in Spanish) and "English language" (aimed at English-dominant individuals who could benefit from exposure to Puerto Rican history and culture, and the acquisition of Spanish). It is recognized that these are very narrow definitions and that subsequent programming might be "bilingual" in a greater sense. For example, a novel approach to second language learning might focus on two main characters who actually learn a language of the air -- a Spanish-dominant individual in a totally English dominant setting and vice versa (such an experiment would teach more than a second language, of course!)

The proposal would be aimed at developing two pilot series which might, if they are successful, lead to a bilingual production company. The first pilot would be in Spanish and would deal primarily with education -- how it operates and parents' rights and obligations. The program would focus on who Puerto Rican parents are -- what is their common history and what common problems do they face in mainland schools. It would then teach "survival techniques" to aid them in dealing with the situation -- citizen awareness, legal and consumer education, health and safety. Lastly, it would teach English as a Second Language on three levels: survival, intermediate and advanced.

The second pilot would be done primarily in English and would be aimed at bringing out the highlights of Puerto Rican culture which would enable non-Puerto Ricans to understand Puerto Rican customs and heritage and thus communicate better. This pilot would be a drama portraying the problems facing a new arrival in Hartford from Puerto Rico. Emerging from this pilot would be programming to accomplish the following:

Documentaries on modern Puerto Rico
Relationship of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the United States
Contributions of Puerto Ricans to the American way of life
Historical facts through dramas

On the language plane, Spanish as a second language would be taught -- not Castilian Spanish but South American Spanish with Puerto Rican vocabulary and idioms. The aim would be to provide Spanish at several levels so that oral communication in the community would be improved.

The proposal budget would be based primarily on the production costs for these two pilots.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING · HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

DOCKET NO. 11407

PROPOSED REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCILS
FOR CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AREAS

Pursuant to the Commission's finding and order in its Docket NO. 11366, it ordered a regulation making proceeding concerning the establishment of advisory councils for community antenna television franchise areas. The Commission accordingly promulgated a notice of hearing to adopt regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal of April 17, 1973, and thereafter conducted a public hearing at the Commission's offices in the State Office Building at Hartford on April 26, 1973.

Various municipalities, industry representatives and professional organizations attended the hearing to offer statements of position and recommendations for such regulations. Some of these recommendations were beyond the scope of the subject matter announced in the notice of hearing.

The corporation counsel for the City of Hartford contended that the corporation owning the CATV franchise encompassing that municipality should be required to place a number of inhabitants of the City of Hartford on its board of directors as public representatives. The corporation counsel expressly requested the Commission to withhold action until May 16, 1973, so that he might have the opportunity to submit his written legal memorandum concerning the Commission's legal authority and power to issue such an order to New England Industries, Incorporated. No such memorandum was ever received from the corporation counsel.

Subsequent to the hearing the Commission reviewed the transcript of the statements of position offered by the participants and the written statements filed before, during and after the hearing. It has arrived at the conclusions that follow.

An advisory council is desirable in the administration of CATV statutes and regulations. Such an advisory council should include a strong representation from the various towns comprising the respective franchise areas. Some consideration should be given to the population density of these towns in determining how many representatives each should have.

The Commission further considered the value of CATV as a device assisting public education. It has concluded that each board of education should be represented in the work of the advisory council. Similarly, the Commission notes another important public use of CATV is related to the public's access to literature in various forms through the library systems located within each of the franchise areas. For this reason libraries should be represented in the advisory council. Finally, the Commission agrees that the operator of the CATV franchise should offer its expert advice and in that way help in the work of the advisory council.

On the basis of all of the foregoing the Commission reconsidered and revised the proposed regulations it had originally published in its notice of hearing. The Commission has concluded that the regulations to follow will be the most appropriate response to the public needs as determined from Commission experience in CATV franchise matters and from the representations made to the Commission in connection with the hearing on these regulations. Accordingly, the Commission has ordered the adoption of the regulations hereinafter set forth, subject to such further and additional proceedings as shall be required by law under Chapter 54 of the General Statutes.

"Section 16-333-24 - ESTABLISHMENT OF CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

"There shall be established a cable television advisory council, hereinafter referred to as advisory council, consisting of representatives of the towns in each area where the Public Utilities Commission has granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to a cable television company as franchise holder under authority of Chapter 289 of the General Statutes.

"SECTION 16-333-25 - APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

"The members of each advisory councils shall be appointed as follows:

"(a) The chief elected official of each town in the franchise area shall appoint one or more members who are residents of said town in accordance with the population of said town as determined by the most recent United States census in the following manner:

"(1) In towns having a population of less than 5,000 - one member.

"(2) In towns having a population of at least 5,000 but less than 20,000 - two members.

"(3) In towns having a population of at least 20,000 but less than 50,000 - three members.

"(4) In towns having a population of 50,000 or more - four members.

"Insofar as is possible said appointments should reflect and be representative of the cultural, educational, ethnic and economic make-up of the population inhabiting said towns.

"(b) The board of education in each town in the franchise area shall appoint one member of the advisory council. Such member must reside in said town, but need not be a member of said board of education.

"(c) One member shall be appointed to the advisory council in each franchise area to represent all of the libraries of general public use located in the towns within that franchise. In the town in the franchise area having the largest population therein, as determined by the most recent United States census, the public library board charged with over-

sight and management of the town's public library as defined by Section 11-24a(b) of the General Statutes shall appoint the advisory council member. In the event there is no public library board in charge of the public library in the town, or if the library of general public use in that town is a private eleemosynary library, or if no library in either category is located in that town, then said advisory council member shall be appointed by the chief elected official of said town. The advisory council member appointed hereunder shall be an inhabitant of a town within the franchise area who is either a library board member or a professional library staff employee of a public library or a private eleemosynary library of general public use in a town within the franchise area.

"(d) The franchisee shall appoint one member, who shall possess some expertise in the field of cable television and who shall serve without vote on the advisory council.

"SECTION 16-333-26 - TERM OF ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

"Each member of the advisory council shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the first day of July in the year in which such member is appointed.

"SECTION 16-333-27 - VACANCIES OF ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

"Any vacancies for an unexpired term may be filled by the respective appointing authority in each instance to complete and serve out the remainder of the current term for which the vacating member was appointed.

"SECTION 16-333-28 - COMPENSATION.

"Members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation

"SECTION 16-333-29 - ELECTION OF OFFICIALS AND MEETINGS.

"Each advisory council shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary. The council shall meet regularly at least bi-monthly. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by the majority of the members upon due notice to all members of the advisory council.

"SECTION 16-333-30 - FUNCTION OF COUNCIL.

"Each advisory council may give advice to the management of the cable television company upon such matters affecting the public as it deems necessary. Each advisory council shall annually on a date not later than the first day of August, file a written report with the PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION concerning its activities for the preceding twelve month period ending June 30."

We hereby direct that notice of the foregoing be given by the Secretary of this Commission by forwarding true and correct copies of this document to parties in interest, and due return make.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 13th day of February, 1974.

Howard E. Hausman)

Raymond S. Thatcher) PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

William L. Hadden, Jr.)

State of Connecticut)
) ss. Hartford, February 13, 1974
County of Hartford)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proposed CATV regulations issued by the Public Utilities Commission, State of Connecticut.

Attest: Henry Mierzwa

Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

231 Capitol Avenue, Room 702, Hartford, CT 06115

MEMORANDUM

To: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In re: REGULATION-MAKING PROCEEDING ON CABLE TELEVISION: Docket #11366

This statement is presented to the Public Utilities Commission by the Director of the PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES, a Federal grant project operated by the Connecticut State Library in cooperation with the Connecticut Library Foundation to disseminate information about library services available in Connecticut.

A particular charge to PIP is to help libraries in Connecticut develop improved services to meet the growing and diversified educational and cultural needs of Connecticut's residents with special attention to the needs of those residents and entities inadequately served at present by conventional library operations and facilities centered on the print media.

This statement will comment in summary fashion on three of the proposed rules in Docket #11366 that are germane to the delivery of improved library and informational services in Connecticut: 5, 7 and 9.

5. LOCAL ORIGINATION FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

Libraries, particularly public libraries, can play a useful and important role in the development of public CATV services because libraries functionally straddle all the public access categories designated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Public access channel: Public libraries traditionally have provided meeting space and supportive services to community-based groups with special interests such as day care, environment, local history, consumer protection, etc. Libraries also frequently schedule a variety of cultural events featuring local talent in arts, crafts and music.

Educational channel: Libraries have always served as centers for continuing education for all age groups. With growing emphasis on extended education, equivalency and individualized instruction at high school and college levels, libraries will be called upon to stock and disseminate educational materials on a widely diffused basis.

Unlike schools library facilities are accessible to all the public.

Government channel: At the municipal level libraries can logically function as the local information center. Unlike municipal buildings and schools, most libraries are open in the evening for the purposes of the entire community.

At the state level, the State Library, which already plays an important and supportive role to government, libraries and the general public, could develop valuable information services geared to priority information needs.

Libraries in Connecticut are already linked by rudimentary technology and cooperative agreements into regional and statewide networks. With optimal public access facilities assured, libraries could readily serve as common public access vehicles for single communities and blocks of communities and thereby contribute to effective utilization of CATV expertise and equipment.

7. ADVISORY BOARDS

For the orderly implementation of FCC public access rules and for effective development of local cablecasting, advisory bodies should be established reflecting the interests of the people at the community and regional levels. An advisory commission at the state level should also be established with links to the local and regional levels.

For effective coordination and use of available resources, libraries should be represented on such advisory commissions at both the local and state levels.

9. FUNDS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Although some libraries in Connecticut offer modern audio-visual services such as records, films, microfilm, cassettes, most libraries are not even remotely equipped and staffed to make effective use of cable television.

Without regular funds for equipment and technical personnel, libraries, for all their versatility, will be unable to develop good CATV services. If cable television is to develop interesting and useful public access programming in Connecticut it is essential that adequate revenues be provided forthwith and on a regular basis for the necessary training of personnel and the purchase of equipment for all public access purposes, including those of libraries.

An appropriate state-level entity or entities should administer such public access funds.

APPENDICES

(1) Report of 7-27-72 CATV meeting for librarians
(2) Bibliography of CATV materials at the Connecticut State Library
(3) Ken Dowlin's 11-1-72 report of CATV services provided at Natrona County Public Library

1-15-73

Signed _____

Margaret I. Cleland, PIP Director

CONNECTICUT ACTION

NEWS AND COMMENT ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CONNECTICUT • dca • DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

■ VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

September, October, November 1974

The nation's pilot program

Meriden cable TV assistance

The Department of Community Affairs has undertaken a unique program of State agency assistance to municipalities in the fuller utilization of government access channels on cable television systems.

In response to a request from Mayor John D. Quine of Meriden, Deputy Commissioner Patrick Sullivan announced on October 8 that DCA will provide direct technical assistance to the Meriden administration and will seek to aid the city in locating further resources needed.

Hollis W. Huston, who has been named DCA's staff supervisor for this program, has already assisted the Mayor's office in the development of policies and rules for the management of the channel, in preparing an enabling ordinance and in program development. Similar assistance has been offered to other Connecticut communities where cable systems are being built.

In addition to the off-the-air signals it carries, each cable system is required by the FCC to make available three free channels for local program origination. One of these is for the use of the educational community, one is devoted to public access, while the third is controlled by the local government and provides access to State agencies as well.

Through government grants and foundation support, considerable use has been made of the educational channels on established cable systems, and concerted effort has been made in major population centers to achieve effective utilization of the public access channel.

In contrast, few local governments have made any use of their channels, and even fewer have undertaken anything but the most superficial programming. This neglect deprives the community of a potentially powerful resource which should be employed to improve informational and service delivery operations, citizen involvement and training.

For this reason, it is expected that the experience gained in Meriden and other Connecticut communities, as well as models developed in the process, will have regional or even national applicability.

THE MORNING RECORD (MERIDEN-WALLINGFORD) - March 13, 1975

New TV programs coming for area

By JAMES P. CONDREN

It may not be too long before television viewers here have the option of choosing between the Monday night "Game of the Week" and city councilmen arguing passionately over how to run the city dump.

And TV showing of "The Towering Inferno" might soon be found running opposite an explanation of a new sprinkler ordinance by the fire chief.

All this and more will be possible when city officials begin using the government access channel provided by the area's franchise holder, Telesystems, Inc.

There are currently 19 CATV (cable antenna television) franchise holders in Connecticut, according to the state Public Utilities Commission. Eleven of these franchises are now in operation, according to a PUC spokesman.

The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that cable television franchises in major television broadcasting areas must provide three local access channels: government access, education access and public access.

So far, however, use of the governmental access channel has been minimal, according to state officials, who say that municipal officials are not quite sure how to approach this new communications system.

Questions over how much cable TV productions will cost and what kinds of programming should be offered are being raised by municipal officials.

The state Department of Community Affairs set up a Cable Television Assistance Unit last fall to help cities utilize the government access channel. The unit was set up after the mayor of Meriden asked the DCA for assistance in using the government access channel, according to Patrick J. Sullivan, former deputy commissioner of DCA. Meriden is currently working with DCA officials

(cont. over)

HARTFORD COURANT - March 7, 1975

Selectmen Get Cable TV Preview

Killingworth

By MAUREEN McGUINNESS

KILLINGWORTH — Hollis W. Huston, a representative from the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA), told the region's selectmen Thursday that the possibilities for cable TV "boggle the mind."

But, he added, "what is offered is much less than what is possible."

Huston met with selectmen and others from the nine-town region to discuss a state program which will help communities use cable television.

Huston said each cable system is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make available three free channels for local programs. One is for educational use, one is devoted to public access and the third is controlled by the local government.

He said 20 hours per week is considered to be full utilization of the government channel. Once the channel is established, he said, each participating town in the region will own a portion of the time.

Regional Approach

However, since so many towns are involved, it probably will be easier to fill the alloted time if programs are produced regionally, Huston said.

Huston said that although the education and government channels were ruled as free channels in 1972 by the FCC, this ruling was experimental and will be evaluated in 1977. After 1977, Huston said, the continuance of free channels probably will be contingent on whether they have been used, if they have been found to be of value to communities and if users ask the FCC to retain them.

Won Franchise

Huston said specific information on services offered and costs can only come from Bernard Perry, owner of Connecticut River Cable Television Co., which was awarded the region's franchise last October.

This region may get DCA assistance, Huston said, in actually setting up the local channels. Also, as a result of state grants, several colleges will be offering training, personnel and equipment to help towns develop and produce programs.

Also, federal funds available for "innovative approaches to community development" have been approved for local cable TV purposes. These funds, he said, will be used to buy equipment in a variety of state localities.

Towns involved in the Connecticut River cable system are: Old SAYBROOK, Westbrook, Clinton, Killingworth, Deep River, Chester, Essex, Durham, and the portion of Haddam west of the Connecticut River.

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to study the potential of government access telecasts and to determine the best methods for utilization of the channel.

DCA personnel and city officials in Meriden have begun a pilot project to develop uses for the government access channel. Sullivan sees Meriden's experiment with cable television as influencing government access channel use throughout the nation.

According to Hollis Huston, supervisor of DCA's cable TV division, programming on the governmental access is "only limited by imagination and creativity."

Both Huston and Sullivan say that the government access channel would attract enough viewers to justify spending tax dollars for programming.

The change in state administrations, however, casts a cloud over the future of DCA cable television assistance.

W. James Rice of Meriden, the new DCA commissioner recently appointed by Gov. Ella Grasso, says he is in favor of continuing the program. But Rice points out that there is "a strong possibility" the program will be ended by budget cuts called for by the governor. Rice says he would meet soon with Jay O. Tepper, whose confirmation as finance commissioner is pending in the General Assembly, to discuss the DCA budget for next year.

A proposal for a grant to provide a team of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute to work out a government access channel program for Meriden is currently under review by DCA officials. Arrangements for the student team were made last year and the students have already completed some preliminary work on the program.

According to Francis S. Noonan, Meriden's city administrator, the students under the supervision of a WPI professor will establish policies and determine the functions and duties of a municipal board which will oversee the operations of the government access channel.

Noonan says that the WPI team will look into the technical needs of government access channel telecasts types of programming, possible abuses of the channel and telecast costs.

The students have interviewed various city officials to get their views on cable television, according to Noonan. The WPI team is now awaiting word on the DCA grant before any further work is done, Noonan says.

The concept of a municipal board to regulate the government access channel was drawn up by Meriden officials with the assistance of the DCA. The Federal Communications Commission, which has regulatory authority over the cable television industry, has not issued any specific regulations regarding the operation of the government access channel.

The proposal for a government access governing board has been submitted to Meriden's Court of Common Council for its action.

The cost of using the government access channel depends on how elaborate the programming is, according to DCA officials, who estimate that the simplest programming will cost from $25 to $100 an hour. New York City budgets exceed $500,000 a year for operation of its over-the-air municipal channel, DCA officials note. State officials have been exploring the possibility of obtaining federal funds for government access channel use.

State officials are also groping in other ways to get a handle on how to approach government access channel. In 1974 the General Assembly established the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications. According to J. Jeffrey Almquist, the commission chairman, the group has not yet formulated any recommendations for the government access channel.

Legislation to extend the life of the commission to February 1976 has been submitted to the 1975 session of the state legislature. The commission is also waiting for the allocation of a $50,000 budget approved last year before any further work is done, according to Almquist.

When the FCC mandated the establishment of the government access channel in 1972, a five-year development period was set. In 1977 a review of the channel will be made by the FCC to determine its success. The continuation of free access to the channel depends on how well cities make use of it, according to Sullivan.

Cable television operations in Meriden began last July. The monthly fee for the service is $6.95 for the home viewer. Mayor John D. Quine sees a great potential in the channel for enlightening citizens about city government. "I think there's a tremendous need to get people more interested in what's happening in our city," Quine says.

Programming could range from telecasts of various city board and commission meetings to a lecture on how the city tax rate is set, Quine points out.

He notes, though, that more study has to be made before the channel is actually used.

The Hartford Courant

Established 1764—The Oldest Newspaper of Continuous Publication in America

Published at 285 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06115 — Friday, April 19, 1974

CATV Plugs in People Power

Connecticut is in the unique position to get off on the right foot where cable television (CATV) is concerned to ensure that public access channels will properly serve the public. The means to that desirable end lie in legislation proposing to establish a pilot Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of CATV, known as state Education Committee Bill Number 5105.

With its passage a coordinating body of experts would provide direction, advice and other services requested by the local advisory councils required by the Federal Communications Commission in each franchise area. It would also identify the needs and costs of public access operations, examine distribution of channel uses develop funding policy to encourage educational flexibility, convenience and experimentation and look into the feasibility of community information centers for non-cable subscribers.

For at least two years library and education leaders in Connecticut have combined their talent in a TV subcommittee to review the experiences of other states and communities and reach conclusions on which to base a state-wide operation. Bill 5105 has been endorsed "heartily" by David D. Kinley acting chief of the FCC's cable TV bureau for its dual goal of promoting public understanding of CATV and developing the public access potential.

Harvard lecturer Kas Kalba added his support saying that his five years of focusing on public service applications of CATV emphasize that its potential will not be fulfilled automatically. "A simple list of all the possible community uses" is not enough to make them come true, he said. Programming, demonstration, promotion and financing are vital accompanists to good intentions. Leadership and planning can make the difference.

New York and Texas already know how wasteful the lack or coordinated effort can be and how difficult it is to undo mistakes. Perhaps basing his view on those experiences, a Washington speaker to the state's Council of Mayors this spring said public access outlook is "gloomy" and a "fizzle."

Such need not be the case here, fortunately. As Mr. Kalba observes, Connecticut's proposal may help to mobilize other state institutions to participate in developing this new communications resource. I might well become a model for the nation.

As spelled out by Bill 5105 commission membership represents all levels of education, government and information receptacles including libraries of all kinds. It would mobilize an impressive array of interested parties with equal representation. Viewers should benefit from top quality programs whose range is limited only by the creative imaginations of planners.

Our state-wide Library Line, library card and interlibrary loaning systems provide a foundation on which to build. The future for public access cable TV will be brighter in this state than any other if Bill 5105 is passed.

Norwich Bulletin, Sunday, August 18, 1974

Program Offers College Credit for Life, Work Experiences

By BOB McLEAN

DANIELSON — College credit for job training?

How about a college degree without ever having attended a college course?

These are both possibilities under a state sponsored program to get underway this fall.

The State Board for Academic Awards has set October 1 as the beginning of its first degree program, an Associate in the Arts. The decision came at a meeting Thursday at the Quinebaug Valley Community College.

Established last year by the Connecticut Legislature, the board seeks to recognize "life experiences" and independent study as valid methods of learning. A major function of the board will be to conduct proficiency tests to assess outside-of-the-classroom experience and give college credit for it.

The board is a unit of the State System of Higher Education and expects to receive its accreditation before the beginning of its first program.

"This is a degree program for independent learners," according to Bernard Shea, executive director of the board. "We are, in effect, a brand new college although we will hold no classes," he continued.

He emphasized that the board would observe all the regulations of a degree granting institution.

"When people make the effort to study independently they are making a significant commitment," he explained.

A 12 member committee has already been established to oversee the associate degree. The members are faculty from public and private colleges throughout the state.

The Associate in the Arts degree will represent the equivalent of 60 semester credit hours. Credit toward the degree will be earned by examination, transfer credit and special assessment.

The degree will represent work "among several areas of knowledge according to a formula that encourages individuality and uniqueness."

Shea said that the program will be particularly useful for two groups: the urban community, and women and minorities.

The urban community, he explained, were people who had been passed by the educational system and had since come into positions of responsibility. He said that the community college system in Connecticut had only begun 10 years ago and some people missed the opportunity for an education.

Women and minorities, Shea said, would benefit by the board because these groups were hesitant to accept traditional classroom standards.

Shea admitted that "it's an area in which a great deal of pioneering is appropriate."

Connecticut is only the third state to begin such a program. New York State has offered college proficiency examinations since 1973 and has granted Regents External Degrees since 1972. New Jersey also gives credit for outside work.

Part of the Connecticut program will be to administer New York's annual College Proficiency Examination Program of the Regents (CPEP) test and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) of the College Entrance Examination Board.

The five board members only held their first meeting last November but plans are already underway to expand the offerings. The board emphasized at its meeting Thursday that the Associate in the Arts degree is only the first of a variety of degrees to be eventually offered.

A future aspect of the board will be to foster the development of new technology and media for the dissemination of information. Already, Shea said, the board can act as an outlet for people who have "attended" classes broadcast on public television by giving them credit for their work.

Representatives of Quinebaug Valley Community College asked the board whether other colleges would recognize the credit given by the board.

Shea cited figures from the New York program to suggest that the board's evaluation would be accepted. He said that of the 1,203 people who have received associate degrees in New York, more than half of them went on to further their education. Of the people who went on, he reported, 80 per cent received full credit for their degree.

The board did say that each college or university had the right to decide what credit to accept.

Tuition for the board may vary with each candidate as everyone proceeds at their own pace. The enrollment fee is $50 with an annual records maintenance fee of $25 and a graduation fee of $10. This does not include examination fees.

In the next several weeks, the board will be launching a public information program which will include visits to community associations and libraries. They also hope to establish counseling centers throughout the state.

There are no admission requirements, no resident requirements and no time limits. The program is "open to anyone who feels able to demonstrate college level achievement regardless of his age, sex, race, creed, citizenship, residence or level of formal education."

Eastern Connecticut is represented on the board by Grace W. Linden of North Franklin who is also its vice chairman.

Although she is available for questions, she recommends that inquiries be directed to the main Board office, 340 Capitol Ave., Hartford. The telephone number is 566-4319.

The Hartford Courant

Established 1764—The Oldest Newspaper of Continuous Publication in America
Published at 285 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06115—Saturday, September 14, 1974

Libraries Become a Campus

Now that the Board for State Academic Awards can confer associate degrees to persons who have never been to college, libraries assume an even greater importance in the community. Without a doubt, they will be one of the most efficient tools available to earning credit equivalent to one gained through formal classroom study. Thus, it is the more satisfying to be able to report that Connecticut's libraries are ready, willing and able to fulfill expectations.

It was but five years ago that the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) first was used in this state making it possible for persons to earn credits by examination to validate knowledge derived outside the classroom. In 1969 University of Bridgeport offered tests in 29 subjects through its evening division of adult education. Today there are more than 50 exams in six academic areas available for placement and credit administered at a dozen campuses with at least that many more participating institutions here.

CLEP is one of four nonconventional ways to earn credits. The other three are: by transferred points from an accredited school, by getting passing grades on applicable tests taken in military service, and by a team of experts' evaluation of human experience as criteria for academic credit in a subject. Applications may be made with the BSAA at 340 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

Libraries will become especially useful when the degreeseeker takes the CLEP or human experience pathway. For in studying for the first or brushing up on the specifics of the second, there is no better place than among the stacks of a library. Persons with a Connecticard, available free of charge from public libraries throughout the state, will benefit by resources in more than 140 libraries. The service, authorized by the 1973 General Assembly, includes an intertown reciprocal borrowing program so that books, magazines and records located out of town will be loaned to a local library for the patron requesting them.

Each library has a specialty among its materials providing a broad diversification of reference material, indeed, something for every need. Under the leadership of the Connecticut State Library, Connecticut is set up and ready to go. Furthermore, Public Information Director Margaret Cleland, for Connecticut Libraries reports that BSAA plans regional meetings this fall with library personnel to discuss how the external degree program works and equip librarians for counselling, testing and as readers' advisors.

The Connecticut Library Association offers another resource in public television and the public access channels on cable TV. The CLA has been deeply involved in planning, training and programming for at least two years to bring the classroom into the living room through that medium.

Connecticut is most fortunate to have farsighted people guiding its libraries to a proper and rightful place of leadership and readiness in public education in a modern, up-dated way making the best use of all assets for the good of everyone.

CABLE INFORMATION SERVICES
Connecticut State Library / Room 601
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06115

9/20/74

FROM: Cable Television: A Handbook For Decisionmaking, Walter S. Baer, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1973

PLANNING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES ON CABLE

Given all these caveats, how can local officials, educators, and citizens best use the education and local government access channels? First, study groups should be established early in the planning phase, as recommended in Chap. 5. These groups should use published information, the experience of other communities, and expert advice to assess the community's needs and priorities. They should estimate the funds available from local budgets, state aid, federal grants, and private and foundation sources. They may want to subject each proposed application to a list of questions like the following:

Checklist for Public Services on Cable

1. What is being done now?
   - — who provides the information or service?
   - — who uses it?
   - — how is it delivered to users?
   - — is there feedback from users?
   - — how much is spent on service delivery and feedback?
2. What are the present problems in providing the service?
3. How might cable television help? Would other media, such as broadcast television, ITFS channels, the telephone, or the mails be as effective?
4. Can the service be provided on the free education or government access channels?
5. Will it require other facilities or equipment?
   - — additional channels?
   - — private channels?
   - — two-way response (data, audio, or video) from viewers?
   - — viewer-to-viewer communications?

   How much will this cost?
6. Who will do the programming or provide the service? How much will it cost?
7. How will the target audience be identified and reached? How much will this cost?
8. What are the arrangements for audience feedback?
   - — how will success or failure be measured?
   - — how will feedback modify the way the service is provided?

   How much will it cost?
9. Overall, how will the cable television portion be paid for?
   - — from existing local budgets, as a result of cost savings?
   - — from additions to local budgets?
   - — from state or federal aid?
   - — from foundations or private gifts?
   - — by taxing cable subscribers?
10. Will a special showing to the FCC be necessary? Must any local, state, or federal laws or regulations be changed?
11. What will be the effect on existing local institutions that now provide the service? Must new institutions be created?
12. What specific steps must be taken to implement the service on cable television?

Answering these questions will help distinguish among feasible and infeasible applications, and those that are worth trying experimentally. Only by active experimentation in the next few years will the potential of cable television for providing public services be understood and eventually realized.

SUMMARY CHECKLIST

- If the community is not in a major market, will its franchise require free use of an education and a government access channel?
- Has the franchising authority designated planning groups to recommend how to use the education and government channels?
- Has the franchising authority or planning group considered
  - — whether to set rules for administering the education channel, supported by a special showing to the FCC?
  - — how the government channel will be administered?
  - — what construction schedule and rates are appropriate for wiring schools and other public facilities?
  - — what production facilities and equipment can be used?
  - — what rates for noncommercial use of additional leased channels will be set?
  - — where funds for programming and service development will be obtained?
  - — how audiences will be made aware of, and participate in, public services on cable?
- What specific educational and municipal applications have been proposed? Have questions like those listed on page 170f. been asked for each potential program or service? Which seem most feasible?
- Has the cable system been designed to accommodate other public services at a later date?
- What are the prospects for demonstrating new educational or municipal applications on the community's cable system?

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MIDDLETOWN PRESS - February 26, 1975

CATV Workshop Looks At Possible Local Uses

Response to Friday's cable television workshop at Middlesex Community College has been "moderately good," organizers say, but there is an underlying fear that local residents are not aware of the importance of the session.

The purpose of the workshop is to personally acquaint residents with local videotaping possibilities and to provide insights into the often unknown and misunderstood expanse of cable TV.

The idea is not new. Other workshops have been conducted throughout the state to provide persons with notions about cable television's local possibilities.

But for the first time, the workshop will be designed on the local, not the state, level with the local audience in mind.

The gathering from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. is co-sponsored by the Middletown commission on the arts and cultural activities and by Russell Library. And it is sponsored with the Middletown area resident as a principal target.

People are not aware what cable television has to offer Joyce Kirkpatrick, of the commission on the arts and cultural activities, said.

Persons could have an opportunity to have access to public, municipal and educational channels. Either they use them, as Sybil Paton, of Russell Library, said, or they could lose them.

To use them, prior knowledge must be gained. And it can when three rotating workshops will be conducted Friday morning and afternoon.

Margaret Cleland, of the state cable commission, and Brian Sperry, former program director for Channel 13 in New London, will speak in two of the workshops.

Ms. Cleland will address herself to programming possibilities, while Sperry will be concerned with contrasting approaches, examples and experiences.

The third phase of the program, entitled "Choose It: Use It," will focus on practice. Contrasting subjects will test portable equipment's ability to convey likewise contrasting actions and approaches.

Sandwiched between will be a short talk by Anne Branscomb, of Kalba-Bowen Associates, Inc. on a "glimpse into Middletown's future." Kalba-Bowen is currently conducting a survey in the area to determine planning and uses of a cable television system.

Registration is $5. More information is available from Russell Library.

MIDDLETOWN PRESS
March 7, 1975

Cable TV Facts Sheets Distributed

Area merchants will be served cable television fact sheets this week, prior to being canvassed by Middlesex Community College (MCC) designed questionnaires.

The fact sheets will provide general background into Connecticut cable development and its relation to advertising schemes of its subscribers. Data is based on calls made this past week to some of the ten cable franchise operators across the state.

Both questionnaires and fact sheets have been designed, and will be served, by 33 MCC students. The campaign is part of a much larger information survey currently being conducted by Kalba-Bowen Associates, Inc., a consulting firm hired by the city.

The student inquiry seeks to discover how viable a force merchants, particularly Main Street businessmen, will be in cable advertising.

To do this, a 12-question flyer was drawn up and presented before the Middletown ad hoc committee and Kas Kalba of Kalba-Bowen last Monday night. The object was to obtain reaction and input before the questionnaire was put before merchants.

The primary reaction was that businessmen would be unable to complete the survey satisfactorily without first knowing something about cable television. And to give them that knowledge, it was decided that fact sheets might be drawn up and issued.

So, the students adjusted their timetable, worked on the fact sheets and revised their questionnaires. Both pieces of information are due on the streets next week, with fact sheets preceding the survey.

Virginia Pettiross, who is a member of the ad hoc cable committee and is assisting the student study, anticipates the work can be completed in time for Kalba-Bowen's estimated deadline of March 15.

The studwents were expected to begin a random telephone survey of 500 persons after the business inquiry was completed. But because of the shortage of time, that investigation has already been initiated.

MIDDLETOWN PRESS
March 3, 1975

CATV Advisory Council Awaits Call for Advice

By CLARK JUDGE

Q: When is a council not a council? A: When it's the Middletown area cable advisory council.

The advisory council was established by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in 1974, and its members appointed last summer.

Under PUC regulations, it was designed to "give advice to the management of the cable television company upon such matters affecting the public as it deems necessary."

Its members were appointed for two-year terms, to serve without compensation, and were supposed to convene at least bimonthly.

Since the council's inception, however, it has not met once. In fact, its members are not even aware who most of their colleagues are.

The problems can be traced to what appears to be a communications breakdown between all parties concerning: the advisory council, the PUC and the franchise operator.

General practice is that the franchise operator (in Middletown's case, TelePrompTer, Inc.) calls the first meeting of the advisory group. After that, the council's presiding officer, elected by the group, shall convene the body.

Unfortunately, Middletown is cast in an almost unique role. The franchise owner is actively trying to sell its property here, and has thus lost track of the advisory council.

Members have been appointed, but no meeting has been called. Most persons on the council thought the first gathering must be called by the operator, or there would be no meetings at all.

Not so, said a PUC spokeswoman. The franchise was asked to call the first one simply because it was one of the few sure parties. Most appointments have not been made, it was explained, when an advisory council is established.

This procedure is merely a convenience, she said, not a rule. It is not part of the PUC regulations, but was conveyed only by letters to franchisees and those making appointments. The message was then supposed to filter to those appointed.

If, however, appointments have been made and the franchise operator is reluctant to call the first session, then the advisory council can pull its own string. "I don't see anything wrong in it," the PUC official said.

It was said that Middletown's predicament is almost unique because apparently this has already happened in Connecticut. An advisory council that had waited for the franchise operator to call the initial forum finally ended up calling its own.

In other places where the franchisee has been set to go, but appointments have not been completed, meetings have been called anyway.

State Cable TV Board To Stage Hearing

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Tuesday, December 10, 1974

NEW LONDON — The Connecticut Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications will conduct a public hearing today at 7:30 p.m. in Dana Hall, Connecticut College, to receive information and opinion concerning the use of cable television for community and public service programming.

The hearing will be the first of a series of regional meetings scheduled by the commission to obtain expressions of local interest in developing local and area programming and services for delivery by cable.

The hearing will be cablecast over cable Channel 13, the local origination channel operated by Eastern Connecticut Cable Television Inc. at Connecticut College.

Considered the first of its kind in the nation, the commission was established in the last session of the General Assembly to conduct a study and make recomendations to the state legislature.

Report Findings

The commission was expected to report its findings to the General Assembly by next February and recommend possible legislative programs concerning the use of cable television for educational, community and public service programming.

Invited to attend today's hearing and present statements to the commission are area government officials, members of local advisory councils for cable television, spokesmen for schools and colleges, libraries and health agencies, community organizations and other interested persons.

Statements also may be mailed to the commission's executive officer, Margaret Cleland, at the Connecticut State Library until Dec. 31.

President at today's hearing will be commission chairman J. Jeffrey Almquist. Reference material about the commission and about cable television will be available at the hearing.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE • THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT • STORRS, CONNECTICUT 06268

The Connecticut Cable Coalition Holds Its Annual Meeting

DECEMBER, 1974

The Valley Cablevision of Shelton was the site of the annual meeting of the Connecticut Cable Coalition, held December 7.

On the agenda was a discussion on "The State of Cable in Connecticut," an organizational and business meeting of the Coalition and three workshops covering:

- The current state-of-the-art in video production hardware.
- Community programming — dealing with the practical realities of producing and organizing programming which directly include community members.
- Political and legal aspects of lobbying and organizing efforts around future cable development in Connecticut.

On the rostrum of speakers and resource people were: Margaret Cleland, Connecticut State Library; Norm Cohen of the Studio, New Haven; Bill Inderstrodt, Cable Coalition; representatives of the State Cable Commission, the Danbury Educational Project, the cable industry, and the Institute of Public Service. The Institute was represented by Extension Professor Myron Weiner (past President of the Coalition).

Update

Under the guidelines of the Public Utilities Commission, a large number of Connecticut cities are in the process of forming cable TV advisory committees. Three quite large cable systems currently operating in the state are: Danbury, Naugatuck Valley, and New London.

For information about the Connecticut Cable Coalition, its activities and membership, address the CCC at 48 Howe Street, New Haven, Conn. 06511.

Selectmen on Camera

The New Milford Times, New Milford, Conn., February 20, 1975

By Maeve Slavin

(Related story, Page 3)

Subscribers to cable television in New Milford will be able to tune in to Channel C (one of two public access channels mandated) on Friday March 14 and watch a Board of Selectmen's meeting which will be videotaped at 10 a.m. and aired at a time later in the day — probably in so-called "prime time."

Last Friday's meeting was videotaped as a "dry run." Equipment was provided by Paul Hancock owner of New Milford Cablevision. However, the Selectmen will request a $9,000 appropriation to purchase equipment which will be kept at the New Milford Public Library and which will be made available to members of the public qualified to operate the videotaping equipment. The $9,000 sum will include maintenance and repairs for a year: the equipment is expected to cost in the region of $6,000.

Workshops in videotaping techniques will be scheduled by the Creative Arts Center and will be open to anyone interested in learning these skills.

Federal Communications Commission regulations have mandated that cablevision companies must provide two free channels open for community use, and unless the channels are in operation by March 1977, they will revert in the case of the New Milford area — to Paul Hancock.

Hancock is required to provide the necessary wiring-up at town buildings, but is not required to provide equipment or operators. He told The Times on Tuesday that he will operate the equipment for the March 14 taping, but that in the future the town must find an operator.

The New Milford Cablevision Advisory Committee is presently working to develop public interest in the use of the channels. The Creative Arts Center production of "A Doll's House" was taped Monday for presentation over public channels at a later date. A West Hartford based production company VOTU (Voice of the Unheard) operating on a federal grant administered by HEW provided the equipment and technicians.

Federal funding may be at hand, according to Paul Hancock, if a bill introduced by Senator Talmadge of Georgia is passed. The bill would provide funding for rural cablevision. A Virginia legislator introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which would provide long term low cost loans for rural areas with less than sixty houses per linear mile.

"That's us," Hancock said. "Prospect for passage of this legislation is not clear. But I've been looking for something like this. Only thirteen per cent of the country is wired for cable, but it is growing. And Connecticut is the only state that is really active in cable."

connecticut cable clips

Vol. 2, No. 8 - Febuary 26, 1975

NEWS AND COMMENTARY COMPILED AND EDITED BY THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

THE MIDDLETOWN (CONN.) PRESS, FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Cable TV Money Being Held

By CLARK JUDGE

HARTFORD—Money budgeted last year for the state Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications has not yet been released, it was learned yesterday.

The money, $50,000, was appropriated in February, 1974, by the Connecticut General Assembly, and approved by the Commission October 29. Since that time, however, not a penny of the $50,000 has been released by the Legislative Management Committee.

And it probably won't be, Commission Chairman J. Jeffrey Almquist said, until it is determined whether the Commission's February 15 reporting deadline will be extended. The Commission was scheduled to review such things as cable needs, technology, costs and funding; propects for interstate cable cooperation; and the need for a permanent state commission to support the innovative use of public access channels.

It was due to report its findings to the legislature February 15, but will present, instead, an interim report and request for more time.

That report, Almquist said, will probably be made next Tuesday. It could have been a final study, rather than an interim one he added, but the members of his Commission felt it was worth the time to conduct a long-range investigation into cable television. In the report's cover letter, Almquist will ask the Legislative Management Committee to allow the $50,000 to be expended through the final, extended deadline, whatever that may be.

Why the Legislative Management Committee has waited this long to release the money is not clear, but Almquist thinks it has to do with the recent turnover in state government. By the time budgetary procedures had been clarified and oral ideas put into writing, the legislature was ready for its bi-annual facelift. The matter was subsequently tabled, and has not been acted upon since.

"These things generally happen at the beginning of each year," he said. Margaret Cleland, an executive officer of the Commission, agreed. The Legislative Management Committee under Gov. Meskill may have felt the decision to release funds should be made by the new legislature, she said.

Why Reluctance?

But what's hard to explain, she added, is the new legislative committee's reluctance to deal with the issue. Perhaps the release of Commission funds is particularly low on the committee's list of priorities, she suggested.

In any case, the only money available was three month and approximately $5,000 worth of a federal grant put up by the State Library. The money covered two persons salaries and services such as mailing and duplicating cable newsletters. It expired December 31, but the State Library continues to offer its services and facilities. No money, however has meant no salary since December 31 for Ms. Cleland.

That situation might be resolved, as Ms. Cleland put it, "with a little help from our friends." The 'friends' in this case are Representatives Howard Klebanoff (D-8th District) and Gerald F. Stevens (R-119 District). Each has sponsored a proposed bill which is directly concerned with the Commission's fate and currently before legislative committees.

Proposed Bill

Klebanoff's proposed bill (No. 6708) would extend the life of the Connecticut Commission another year. Stevens' proposed measure (No. 6588) would extend the Commission's reporting date (Feb. 15) to allow additional time for the study's completion.

Neither, however, explicitly refers to funding. So, the possibility of one of the bills being passed and the money not being released is there. Almquist is confident the $50,000 will be released concurrently when and if one of the measures is passed, but admits that the other possibility is conceivable.

Should neither bill be passed, however, then the Commission would "be pretty much out of business," Almquist said. He is confident that won't happen, and said the Commission has been "operating on the assumption that we'll get past.

The Connecticut Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1974, and is charged with making recommendations to the legislature to assure that effective use be made of the access channels. As such, it protects the public interest in seeing that educational, government and public access is assured to cable. Virginia Pettiross, a Middletown resident, is a member of the Commission.

NOTICE

This will be the last issue of *Connecticut Cable Clips* until further notice. The Connecticut State Library regrets that it lacks the funds to continue supporting the work of the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications.

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Sunday, February 16, 1975

Rule Called Depriving Viewers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Federal Communications Commission (FCC) policies barring common ownership of cable and microwave television systems keep millions of rural Americans from getting improved reception, the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) said Saturday.

An OTP survey, conducted by the University of Denver, said more than one million rural households receive no adequate television service at all.

Six million other households, or about 9 per cent of all home viewers, receive fewer than three channels, the survey said, and another 22 million must choose from among fewer than five channels.

If FCC regulations were relaxed, the report said, all but about 150,000 of the most isolated households could receive three channels for a total investment of $128 to $153 million. It said five-channel reception would cost $272 to $336 million.

Test studies showed better service could be provided in north central Tennessee for an investment equaling $5 to $7 per household. In northwest South Dakota, the per-household cost of improved reception vis a combination of cable and improved microwave was $128 to $176.

"These figures compare favorably with what some rural householders are now investing in elaborate tower and antenna arrangements for only marginally satisfactory reception," the report said.

OTP Director John Eger sent copies of the report to FCC Chairman Richard E. Wiley and Sen. Howard H. Baker, R-Tenn.

NEWS RELEASE - DANBURY

Editor's Note: We are running the following news releases from Danbury in lieu of newsclips. Getting local coverage of community cablecasting in some areas of the State is an uphill job.

Danbury, Feb. 3, 1975

Mayor Charles Ducibella is introducing a new series of video programs which will be cablecast weekly on channel 6, the local access channel. "The Mayor's Report" will be shown at 12:30, 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. each Monday starting February 3. The weekly program is being produced by Mr. William P. Morton, Video Project Director of the Danbury Public Library. Designated as the Official Municipal Information Agency of the city of Danbury, the Library is planning to inform residents about municipal activities, municipal agencies and their services.

For further information contact William P. Morton or Stuart T. Porter at the library.

Feb. 10-14--OPERA WEEK AT THE LIBRARY. During this week, on channel 6, while the message wheel is showing items of information pertinent to city agencies and meetings, the audio portion will carry complete operas (average running time for each opera is about 2½ hours). There will be complete playings on each opera every day, also a brief introduction to the opera prior to broadcast. The following is the week's schedule:

Feb. 10--10 a.m. and 2 p.m.--AIDA by VERDI w/Leontyne Price, Eita Gorr, Jon Vickers and Robert Merrill, conducted by Georg Solti w/the Rome Opera House Orchestra

Feb. 11--10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.--THE MAGIC FLUTE by MOZART w/Franz Crass, Roberta Peters, Evelyn Lear, Fritz Wunderlich, conducted by Karl Bohn w/Berlin Philharmonic

Feb. 12--10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.--SAMSON (in English) by HANDEL w/Jan Peerce, Phyllis Curtin, conducted by Maurice Abravanel w/ Utah Symphony

Feb. 13--10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. PELLEAS ET MELISANDE by DEBUSSY w/Camille Maurane, Erna Spoorenberg, conducted by Ernest Ansermet w/Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Feb. 14--10 a.m. only--MEDEA CHERUBINI w/ Maria Callas, Mirto Picchi, conducted by Tullio Serafin w/orchestra

CABLE TELEVISION, CHANNEL 6 LISTINGS

Feb. 7
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Municipal Information
10 a.m. Aida by Verdi (audio only)
12:30 p.m. Mayor's Report
1:30 p.m. Mayor's Report
2:00 p.m. Aida by Verdi (audio only)
6:30 p.m. Mayor's Report

Feb. 8
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Municipal Information
10 a.m. Magic Flute by Mozart (audio)
1:30 p.m. Magic Flute, Mozart (audio)

Feb. 9
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Municipal Information
10 a.m. Samson by Handel (audio only)
1:30 p.m. Samson by Handel (audio)

Feb. 10
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Municipal Information
10 a.m. Pelleas et Melisande by Debussy (audio only)
1:30 p.m. Pelleas et Melisande by Debussy (audio only)

Feb. 11
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Municipal Information
10 a.m. Medea by Cherubini (audio)
3 p.m. Jr. High basketball--Broadview vs. Rogers Park

THE HARTFORD TIMES, January 1, 1975

Community Colleges Offer Credit-by-TV Course

The state's regional community colleges are offering credit by television starting next Tuesday in a 13-part public TV series on the history of man through his achievements in science.

"The Ascent of Mann," a $4 million production, will begin at 8:30 p.m. on Connecticut Public Television with a repeat showing on Saturday evenings at 8.

The series explores such historical events as the trial of Galileo for his support of Copernicus' theory that the sun is the center of the universe and the earth and other planets revolve around it.

The 12 community colleges are tying in with the series by offering college credit for those enrolling in, and completing, the course.

The schools will provide a textbook and an anthology for $15.95, plus a study guide and other supportive services.

Those interested should contact their nearest community college registrar or write or call TV Community College, 1280 Asylum Ave., Hartford.

THE HARTFORD COURANT: February 9, 1975

Geared for Careers

Glastonbury High School Guidance Counselor Lawrence Sobolewski demonstrates a device that helps students match their interests with various careers. Looking on in the high school's Career Resource Center is student Leslie Heinz. She is among several hundred students who have used the center to learn more about future careers. In the background, students use a microfilm viewer that gives basic information on careers, such as salary ranges and where to find training for the jobs in the state. The center, which is to have other materials such as cassette recorders and film strips, is funded by a $2,500 state grant

GREENWICH TIME, FEBRUARY 5, 1975

Library To Hold Video Workshop

The Greenwich Library will conduct a video workshop in the library's Cole Auditorium to instruct residents in the use of video tape equipment.

Two camera systems will be available during the workshop to provide participants with "hands-on" experience.

connecticut cable clips

Vol. 1, No. 17 - December 25, 1974

NEWS AND COMMENTARY COMPILED AND EDITED BY THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL
USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

231 Capitol Avenue/Room 601/Hartford, CT 06115
Tel.: (203) 566-7315

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMISSION ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL USES OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 7:30 p.m. AT THE DANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

INVITED TO ATTEND AND TO PRESENT RELEVANT INFORMATION AND OPINION ARE PUBLIC OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR CABLE TELEVISION ESTABLISHED IN CABLE FRANCHISE AREAS BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, SPOKESMEN FOR EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

STATEMENTS MAY BE PRESENTED ORALLY AND IN WRITING. WRITTEN STATEMENTS MAY ALSO BE MAILED TO THE COMMISSION C/O THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, ROOM 601, 231 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115.

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December 23, 1974

From *Connecticut Cable Clips*, Vol. 1, No. 14 (Dec. 4, 1974), p. 2.

Teleprompter Seen Throwing Towel in on Area Cable TV

BRIDGEPORT SUNDAY POST, November 10, 1974

Teleprompter Inc. the New York-based company whose spokesmen predicted two years ago would be providing cable television to the Bridgeport area by this summer, has all but written off the area for cable television and is attempting to sell its franchise rights.

Teleprompter, the largest cable television firm in the nation, has been delayed in its efforts to wire Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge for CATV primarily because of a protracted legal battle over the company's right to locate a master antenna in Shelton.

Now, with interest rates the highest in recent memory and money for capital expansion in short supply, Teleprompter is moving to divest itself of undeveloped "high risk" franchises such as the Bridgeport area, according to company officials.

Bridgeport is considered a high risk area because residents can receive seven or more channels independently.

This makes cable television, which offers up to 27 channels to subscribers who pay a monthly service charge, less attractive than in areas where normal TV reception is marginal, according to John Raines, Teleprompter's New England Regional manager.

"Teleprompter, as well as the entire cable industry has run into financial difficulties," said Mr. Raines.

Shelton Snag Cited

"We would have had an operating system in Bridgeport if it hadn't been for two things: the difficulty with the Shelton antenna site and opposition from established Connecticut television systems," he said.

Shelton has opposed to the construction of the master antenna since 1973, when the city Zoning commission denied Telepromper's application to build the tower on a site of Black Hills road. The Zoning commission's decision was overruled by the state Public Utilities commission, which issues CATV franchises. After a series of appeals by the city, the matter is now awaiting a hearing by the state Supreme court.

"We feel the tower will cause interference with local television reception and result in depreciation of local property values," said James Bracnaro, a Shelton lawyer handling the case for the city.

Mr. Raines said the Shelton site is the only location in the area where it would be feasible to build an antenna, primarily because of its elevation. "We looked for years for an alternate antenna site," he said, "and there just doesn't appear to be any."

"Blackout" on Buyers

He said Teleprompter is discussing the possibility of selling the franchise with "several companies" but declined to reveal their names. There still remains some possibility that Teleprompter would retain the franchise, Mr. Raines said but, however, that the company would like to see another firm take over.

Teleprompter owns a franchise in the Middletown area which has also been put up for sale because of the company's efforts to cut back on capital expenditures.

Before any franchises can be transferred from one company to another, both parties must gain approval from the PUC.

In the area adjacent to Bridgeport, other potential cable television backers have been hit by the so-called tight money problem.

Paul Hancock president of New Milford cablevision, had applied earlier this year to the PUC for franchise rights to the six-town region that includes Trumbull, Monroe, Newtown, Brookfield, New Fairfield and Sherman.

But in September, a week before a public hearing on the franchise had been set by the PUC, he withdrew the application.

"Nobody wants to put up any money for new franchises," said Mr. Hancock, whose company just recently began providing service to residents of the New Milford-Bridgewater area at the rate of $8.50 per month. He estimated it would cost $2.6 million to establish an operating system in the Trumbull region.

"We'll reapply as soon as some money becomes available," he said.

Community Television Systems of Branford, a subsidiary of the Atlanta, Georgia-based Rollins, inc., had also filed an application for the Trumbull region franchise. But the application was not considered by the PUC because it was incomplete.

Thomas Bird, the firm's manager, said Rollins might submit another application for the Trumbull franchise. However, he indicated that Rollins had not been pursuing the matter since the first application was ruled incomplete.

Accordingt o the PUC, a total of 18 cable franchises have been granted in Connecticut. Of these, only four are operational.

More Telecommunications Urged

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Tuesday, December 3, 1974

Dr. Peter C. Goldmark says the nation is failing to use its communications technology properly and such a policy will result in the same kind of mistakes that have led to the energy crisis.

Goldmark, a communications scientist who helped develop the long-playing phonograph record and color television, is actively engaged in communications work in Connecticut.

His warning about communications technology is in a speech scheduled for delivery this afternoon in San Diego.

Goldmark will be addressing government representatives, scientists and businessmen at the National Telecommunications Conference.

Goldmark's text says: "We must look at communications with a new set of glasses. It is time for national policy-makers to take inventory of technological advances in communications and reassess their real potential to facilitate solutions to economic and social problems."

Goldmark has long said that there is enough communications technology available to improve the human condition.

$1 million in Funds

Since 1972, he has received more than $1 million for his New Rural Society project which is being done with Fairfield University and is being carried out in Windham County. The money has come from federal grants.

The project seeks to bring sophisticated services available in urban areas to rural districts via television, communications satellite and the computer.

Goldmark says 80 per cent of the people in the U.S. are jammed into 10 per cent of the land and this results in a waste of natural resources.

Goldmark will tell his audience today that the nation's 1947 report on National Growth, due to be delivered to Congress, should contain a role for telecommunications "so that we don't repeat the mistake of complacency toward our natural resources.

Goldmark is recommending using two-way Cable TV and other forms of broadband communications for such public service as:

—Telecampuses to provide university instruction in homes.

—Teleclincis for medical and public health information services via television in the home.

—Teleconferencing to conserve energy by interconnecting businesses, state and local agencies so that communications does the commuting.

—Domestic satellite communications service to carry major cultural events from metropolitan areas to rural.

Goldmark is president of Goldmark Communications Inc. in Stamford. He is a trustee of Northeast Utilities.

From *Connecticut Cable Clips*, Vol. 2, No. 8 (Feb. 26, 1975), p. 5.

CATV to provide three channels : Selectmen discuss local moves

Madison
SHORE LINE TIMES
February 20, 1975

Cable TV was discussed by the Board of Selectmen Monday morning — background, some financial aspects and how to establish policies and rules for use of a municipal channel.

Carl Ulffers, a former vice-president of communications of American Telephone and Telegraph Company and presently chairman of the Advisory Council for Madison's franchise area, was present to answer questions.

Mr. Ulffers was appointed by First Selectwoman Vera Dallas to represent Madison on the council. The seven-town franchise area includes Madison, Guilford, Branford, North Branford, East Haven, North Haven and Wallingford.

The franchise for this area is held by Community TV Systems, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Atlanta, Georgia, based Rollins, Inc.

Under law, Mr. Ulffers explained, CATV must furnish three channels to the town: municipal, educational and library, channels. A public channel services the entire franchise system.

Cable TV subscribers would receive all present commercial channels as well as the three cable television channels. Reception would be received through telephone wires rather than the present antenna-method.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ultimate authority over cable television, Mr. Ulffers explained, and will, he believes, establish some rules (probably technical) for operation.

However, the FCC has delegated authority to state or communities. The state of Connecticut has passed legislation giving authority to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish advisory councils for each franchise area. This council acts as a liaison between the PUC and the community.

Mr. Ulffers also noted that the act passed by the Connecticut legislature delegating authority to the PUC also established a gross receipts tax for the state, which would enable the state to collect approximately $160,000 per year.

Mrs. Dallas asked Gordon Donley, assessor, to investigate possible income to the town in lieu of taxes if the gross receipts tax is levied instead of property tax.

Mrs. Dallas asked Mr. Ulffers advice on steps the Board of Selectmen should take in preparation for the advent of cable television in Madison — anticipated by the end of 1975 or beginning of 1976.

Mr. Ulffers suggested that the town check with the schools as to their plans; investigate placement of the municipal channel equipment (discuss cooperation with the library channel); and discuss operation and management with other towns which have installed cable television channels.

Expense to the town to transmit its channel, Mr. Ulffers estimated, is "not less than $10,000 minimum to get started, and this applies to the school."

The town can use its channel at no charge; the cost involves initial expenditures for equipment and the cost to manage the channel. The town is responsible to determine access to the channel, programming, providing equipment and "making the channel work," Mr. Ulffers stated.

Community TV Systems is urging more use of public channels as it enhances the value of its own product. They will therefore help as much as they can, Mr. Ulffers noted.

Youth Center Study Committee

Nancy Childress and Lisa Parisee, Daniel Hand High School students, were appointed to the Youth or Community Center Study Committee. Mrs. Dallas noted that Miss Childress had organized and was instrumental in operating the teen center last summer and "is deserving of recognition for that work."

Selectmen on Camera

The New Milford Times, New Milford, Conn., February 20, 1975

By Maeve Slavin
(Related story, Page 3)

Subscribers to cable television in New Milford will be able to tune in to Channel C (one of two public access channels mandated) on Friday March 14 and watch a Board of Selectmen's meeting which will be videotaped at 10 a.m. and aired at a time later in the day — probably in so-called "prime time."

Last Friday's meeting was videotaped as a "dry run." Equipment was provided by Paul Hancock owner of New Milford Cablevision. However, the Selectmen will request a $9,000 appropiration to purchase equipment which will be kept at the New Milford Public Library and which will be made available to members of the public qualified to operate the videotaping equipment. The $9,000 sum will include maintenance and repairs for a year: the equipment is expected to cost in the region of $6,000.

Workshops in videotaping techniques will be scheduled by the Creative Arts Center and will be open to anyone interested in learning these skills.

Federal Communications Commission regulations have mandated that cablevision companies must provide two free channels open for community use, and unless the channels are in operation by March 1977, they will revert in the case of the New Milford area — to Paul Hancock.

Hancock is required to provide the necessary wiring-up at town buildings, but is not required to provide equipment or operators. He told The Times on Tuesday that he will operate the equipment for the March 14 taping, but that in the future the town must find an operator.

The New Milford Cablevision Advisory Committee is presently working to develop public interest in the use of the channels. The Creative Arts Center production of "A Doll's House" was taped Monday for presentation over public channels at a later date. A West Hartford based production company VOTU (Voice of the Unheard) operating on a federal grant administered by HEW provided the equipment and technicians.

Federal funding may be at hand, according to Paul Hancock, if a bill introduced by Senator Talmadge of Georgia is passed. The bill would provide funding for rural cabelvision. A Virginia legislator introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which would provide long term low cost loans for rural areas with less than sixty houses per linear mile.

"That's us," Hancock said. "Prospect for passage of this legislation is not clear. But I've been looking for something like this. Only thirteen per cent of the country is wired for cable, but it is growing. And Connecticut is the only state that is really active in cable."

From *Connecticut Cable Clips*, Vol. 1, No. 12 (Nov. 20, 1974), p. 2.

CABLELIBRARIES
October, 1974
Ridgefield, CT

FCC SPOKESMAN QUESTIONS EXTENT OF ACCESS CHANNEL USE

The Federal Communications Commission, according to Commissioner James Quello, is considering a survey of public, governmental and educational access channels to determine how much they are being used. Quello, who chairs the Federal-State/Local Advisory Committee as well as the cable technical advisory committee, feels that present access requirements on cable systems in the top 100 markets may be unwarranted if there is little demand for access. The Cable Bureau, according to Quello, needs hard data to demonstrate that access channels are being put to good use.

Cable TV Public Service Roles Outlined by Proponents

By KAREN WILLETT
Staff Reporter

THE HARTFORD TIMES, Thursday, November 14, 1974

BLOOMFIELD — Imagine turning on your television set one evening and being able to watch the Bloomfield Town Council debate public transportation. Or switch to another channel and see the Bloomfield Senior Citizens Music Makers swing into their rendition of "Ain't She Sweet."

Later in the evening a complete community calendar of upcoming events in town would be presented so you could plan to attend some of the civic and social events scheduled for the next few days.

If you have never attended a Bloomfield political caucus it may be possible for you to watch one in operation on your own TV set.

Or if you or your neighbor have a burning issue you want to let other citizens in town know about or a club to promote or a cause to celebrate, you can appear on television and state your views.

These are just a few of the possibilities for Bloomfield and its citizens now that cable television is on its way into the local communities in Connecticut.

Edwin Gittleman, one of Bloomfield's three representatives on the Cable TV (CATV) Advisory Council, explained some of the possibilities for Bloomfield once CATV is established here.

Bloomfield is in a CATV region with five other towns including Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor and Simsbury.

The cable television operation itself is being developed by a private company through franchises throughout the state. It is possible cable television will be available sometime next year, Gittleman said.

Cable television will provide 35 channels to residents who pay for hook-up (roughly $15) and a monthly fee (roughly $7). The set-up and payment is similar to the way people currently pay for their telephone.

Television reception will come through underground cables rather than over air waves.

"What people don't realize is cable TV is not just a better picture but a community service," said Carol Carlisle, another member of the CATV Advisory Council. Ms. Carlisle is also the media specialist for the Bloomfield schools.

"It would be possible for you to call the library for a bibliography on a particular book and within five minutes have it come up on your TV screen," Ms. Carlisle gave as another example of what is possible with cable television.

She cited the adult education program at the high school as another program that could be televised to reach more people.

Televised public health programs is another idea being explored in some areas of the country, she added.

Of the 35 channels available on cable television, three of them must be set aside for free use by the public. One station is for education, another for town government and the third for public access.

The only expense to the organization, group or town would be the cost of the production of the programs such as camera equipment, microphones and possibly a studio and video tape equipment.

The school system already owns five video tape cameras and recorders and several video tape decks. But Ms. Carlisle said the resources could be broadened since many businesses and industries have equipment they might make available to the public.

Cable television also will make it possible to tune in stations in New York and other states as cable television grows throughout the country.

As a public service Gittleman said he thinks it "would unify the town. It would enable people to discuss things important to the town. It would force town officials to open meetings to the scrutiny of the public."

Gittleman said "immediacy" is the key to what cable television will do for the community.

"It would be right there in the homes, live, so people can immediately see what is happening," Gittleman said.

The advisory committee that Gittleman, Ms. Carlisle and Lee Kelmer represent the town on was set up by the Public Utilities Commission as an advisory and regulatory body.

This committee will be involved in monitoring and advising the private cable television franchise about programming and reporting annually to the PUC.

Gittleman said the advisory committee is interested in getting suggestions from citizens about what they would like to see broadcast on the cable television and what needs the local channels could fill.

WILL CONNECTICUT USE CABLE TO HELP EQUALIZE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY?

STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER SHEDD, 1/31/75

The State Board of Education strongly supports the exploration by the Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications as to the feasibility of using cable telecommunications as a means of equalizing educational opportunity in Connecticut.

The Board has long been interested and involved in the use of educational television as a means of bringing increased educational opportunity to the children of Connecticut. It, in conjunction with its special Television Council, is intimately concerned with a number of areas involved with Telecommunication uses in Education such as: suggesting objectives, subject areas, and content for school and adult educational broadcasts over broadcast and cable television; program production and evaluation; information transfer and computer access interconnections; and research in and the improvement of the quality of education by means of instructional telecommunications whether cable, open circuit, closed circuit, 2500 megahertz fixed service, or other technological devices.

The State Board of Education therefore earnestly recommends that there be an immediate and concerted effort on the part of the Commission on Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications in full cooperation with state and other educational agencies to determine the ways in which this new service can be best utilized to equalize educational opportunity in Connecticut.

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Sunday, December 29, 1974

On Education: Major Ruling

Connecticut's system of providing financial aid to public schools is unconstitutional. That was the ruling last week of Superior Court Judge Jay E. Rubinow.

After the opinion was announced, Gov.-elect Ella T. Grasso said she would appeal the decision to the state's Supreme Court.

In Judge Rubinow's decision, he held that under the present financing method, supported mostly by local property taxes, amounts of money spent fpr education depend largely upon whether towns and cities are rich or poor.

Thus, he concluded, the system does not provide equal educational opportunities throughout the state, as the state constitution requires.

As Atty. Gen. Robert K. Killian later commented: "This is a landmark case.I think we will have to get a ruling from the highest authority."

Judge Rubinow gave no new plan for school financing and did not ask for one. But he retained jurisdiction in the case until the state or the Supreme Court moves it a step farther.

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Friday, January 3, 1975

Plan To 'Equalize' Education Offered

By DAVID MARZIALE

A special state commission will recommend a new $113-million program of state aid to local public education that would compensate three-fourths of Connecticut's towns for their relatively low amounts of taxable property.

The proposal, approved Thursday by the Commission on School Finance and Equal Educational Opportunity, will be submitted to the General Assembly Jan. 15.

The recommendation follows last Friday's Superior Court decision that the state's system of financing local education is unconstitutional.

Under the current system, most of the cost of local schools is paid by local property taxes. The state, in addition, pays each town $250 a year for each of its students.

The commission's proposal, which would be phased in over a period of years, would guarantee the state's 125 poorest towns the same school financing base that the 126th poorest town (44th richest town) has.

The 125 poorest towns would be paid the difference between what each mill of tax levy would produce in the 44th richest town and what each mill produces in their towns.

The 44 richest towns would receive no property tax aid, but all of the state's 169 towns would continue to receive the $250-per pupil grants each year.

Towns receiving the new aid could use it in one of three ways: they could use all of it to increase educational expenditures, they could apply it all toward lowering their tax rates or they could use part to increase school expenditures and part to lower taxes.

In addition to the property tax reimbursement, the new program would include the following elements:

—The state would assume three-fourths of the cost of special education, rather than the two-thirds it now pays. The commission said this would be the first move toward total state assumption of special education expenses;

—The present $7-million state appropriation for aid to disadvantaged pupils would be doubled;

—The state would subsidize Connecticut's seven largest cities for the special expenses their governments have because they are densely populated. The cities receiving this form of aid would be Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, Waterbury, New Britain and Norwalk.

THE HARTFORD TIMES, Wednesday, January 29, 1975

Vo-Ed Courses Slashed

By DAVID DRIVER
Staff Reporter

Budget cutbacks have forced the state's 16 regional vocational-technical schools to elminate their supplemental adult evening courses, involving some 7,500 students and more than 400 part-time teachers, officials said today.

The programs, which will end Feb. 3, affect only those adult evening courses which have been offered to the public at no cost, said Angelo Tedesco, a consultant to the vocational division at the state Department of Education.

School Transit Costs To Rise

THE HARTFORD TIMES, Monday, February 3, 1975

Costs of school transportation are expected to increase by as much as 15 per cent this year, state education officials say, but the extra burden — more than $4 million — may have to be borne entirely by municipal property taxes.

Rep. Howard M. Klebanoff, D-Hartford, concedes this year's political climate doesn't lend itself to much expansion of the state's role in paying for school busing.

"I'm going to try and work to improve the whole system of state funding for transportation," said Klebanoff, co-chairman of the General Assembly's Education Committee. "But my political prediction would have to be that we won't be able to accomplish much."

Klebanoff is one of the legislature's strongest advocate of massive changes in education financing to shift the dominant role from local property taxes to the state tax system.

The state's present share of transportation expenses is about 32 per cent of a total statewide cost estimated at well over $30 million.

Klebanoff's "political prediction" is based on Gov. Ella T. Grasso's stated determination to resist expansion of state spending wherever possible to avoid tax increases.

The school transportation "problem" stems primarily from a state aid formula at least 10 years old. It provides for 50 per cent state financing, except that no town can receive more than $20-per-pupil unless it's part of a regional school district.

An added wrinkle in the issue — and one expected to be hotly debated this legislative session — is the law passed last year expanding municipal responsibility for busing nonpublic school children by 1975-76 at the latest.

Whereas town responsibility used to be confined to serving schools getting most of their students from that town, the new law mandates public busing if a school has an enrollment majority from the state as a whole.

Report Outlines Need For Bilingual Teachers

THE HARTFORD COURANT, Wednesday, February 12, 1975

Only 42 per cent of the estimated 25,000 non-English-speaking students in Connecticut who need bilingual education are receiving it, the state Board of Education learned Tuesday.

According to 1973-74 figures from the state Department of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education, an estimated 2,500 bilingual teachers would be needed to provide an adequate education to students who don't speak English.

The state now has only 300 bilingual teachers.

Despite the need documented by the bureau and representatives of two bilingual groups, the board refused to support the idea of mandatory bilingual education in Connecticut schools. It felt there was no money to support it.

The board tabled discussion of proposed legislation forcing schools to start bilingual programs after it was apparent the proposal would fail.

The largest group of non-English-speaking residents are Hispanic, bureau figures for the 1974-75 school year show. The report said 157 schools in 16 Connecticut towns have Spanish-speaking populations of 20 or more.

Yet, the report added, 111 of these 157 schools have no bilingual classes for the Hispanic students.

The bureau consultant who presented the report, Dr. Kenneth Lester, said the figures are for bilingual programs only and not for so-called English as a second language or tutoring programs that teach Hispanic students for only one or two class periods a day.

Populations in two of the 16 towns, Hartford and Bridgeport, account for more than half of all Hispanic children in the state, the bureau report said. They also account for half the schools that do not offer a bilingual program to children who need one.

No Relief from School Costs

THE HARTFORD COURANT Febuary 1, 1975

Even with declining enrollments, Connecticut schools face the serious problem of costs that continue to grow, Education Commissioner Mark Shedd and the Connecticut Public Expenditure Council are in general agreement on that point.

In its annual report on public school finances, the CPEC says 1973-74 enrollment was 655,982, down 1.1 per cent from the previous year. That is the largest decline since 1944-45. The CPEC predicts the downward trend will continue at least until 1980.

Commissioner Shedd goes further, predicting an enrollment drop of nearly 25 per cent before 1990. As a result, he says, our schools might be able to save about $14 million a year.

But that would be more than eaten up by inflation. The costs of running schools are soaring, and Commissioner Shedd predicts the state's total bill will soon top $1 billion a year.

The CPEC statistics show total costs of about $916 million in 1973-74, up more than $44 million from the previous year. That is more than three times the amount we might save from decreased enrollments.

Meanwhile, the Connecticut Conference of Mayors and Municipalities raises another problem: Basic state school aid is paid at a flat $250 per student. Under that formula, as enrollment goes down so will the total amount of aid.

None of this accounts for the cost of school aid equalization, which is becoming a moral, if not a legal, necessity. The CPEC makes clear the vast differences in the amounts various towns can spend on each student, ranging from $1,656 in affluent Darien to $711 in rural Griswold. Yet the plan just offered to correct these differences would cost an extra $136 million per year. That's money the state simply does not have.

We might achieve some limited, and less expensive, degree of equalization by altering the flat per-student grant so more money goes to tax-poor communities. But there seems little chance of materially increasing the overall level of state aid, which now pays only 31 per cent of local education costs.

The hard fact remains that these costs will continue to grow—and somehow or other we must find a way to pay them.

Newsclips of significance for the development of cable communications in Connecticut solicited. Send Att: Margaret Cleland/ Cable Information/CT State Library/231 Capitol Ave./Hfd. 06115.

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HARTFORD TIMES - FEBRUARY 10, 1974

Editorial

To make the most of cable television

General Assembly leaders seem receptive to a proposal before the current session to establish a year-long study of public and educational uses of cable television.

It is a timely moment to set about establishing long-term policy for the "wired society."

Cable (or other similar technologies whose end product is the same) has already grown to serve 8 million Americans, including subscribers in parts of Connecticut. Cable is growing at a rate of more than 10 per cent a year; within five to ten years, more than half the nation's homes will be hooked up to clear reception of 20 or more channels.

AT THE NATIONAL level, review is just beginning of a White House study that proposes sweeping changes in the laws that govern television when it is brought to a home by cable.

The most dramatic of those changes would abolish the restraints on subjective journalism now placed on broadcasters.

Under the "fairness doctrine," broadcasters must offer equal time for response by political figures and others whose viewpoint has been challenged or ignored in an earlier broadcast. It was under this doctrine, for instance, that Democrats were given air time for Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield to answer President Nixon's "State of the Union" message.

THE FAIRNESS doctrine and other restraints have been held necessary because the number of broadcasting channels in any community is limited. But with cable television, the number of channels is, practically speaking, unlimited: Most systems will have more circuits available than can be filled.

With the monopoly characteristic of program originators ended, television can be afforded the same full freedom of the press that the print media have historically enjoyed—a welcome evolution.

The White House report released at the end of 1973 also envisions handling cable television as a "common carrier," available to anyone who wants to lease time (in much the way that a common-carrier trucking company must, for a uniform rate, deliver within its area any item that anyone is willing to pay to have delivered).

Both those basic approaches are sound, although their ramifications deserve careful planning.

Other elements in the White House study will be more controversial: A proposal for municipal franchising of cable systems, rather than the regional franchises that Connecticut has pioneered; a proposal to abandon the idea of setting aside channels for public access; a proposal to abandon public utility rate-setting, despite the acknowledged monopoly each franchise would have in its area.

EVEN WERE these changes not looming on the national horizon, it would be none too soon for the public interest in cable television to be given careful examination at the state level.

The potential for educational and instructional use of cable television is enormous—and largely unexplored. It is appropriate that the Connecticut State Library is among those urging study of the medium's potential; library services are among those one would logically think of as being improved by easy access to video display in homes.

But that may be only the beginning of the cable revolution. Connecticut has a head start in planning the mechanics and the technical rules for cable and in allocating franchises for geographic and cultural regions. The next step is to deal with the substance of how cable will be used.

HIGHWAYS FOR THE MIND

The development of highways for the mind, for the transmission and exchange of information, knowledge and recreative experience through the creative communication arts in the latter quarter of the 20th Century is viewed as essential and fundamental as was the provision of roads for the transportation of goods, services and people in our country's past. As we approach the maximum development of our land resources and their physical interconnection, the modern state needs to turn to the maximum development of its human resources, the minds and talents of its people, by developing an information and idea communication system on a scope and scale to match its highway system.

It is contended that an investment in a state-wide telecommunications system for the transport of ideas and information equivalent to that invested in our highway system could be financed for the long haul by the increased productivity of the state's population and the reduction of economic waste and losses. Some estimates of the reducible costs in the way we presently provide and deliver educational and informational services exceed fifty per cent of total expenditures.

We have the means and the resources at hand if we can generate the desire and the will to achieve what all of us generally aspire for individually, but which none of us can realize without state-supported cooperative effort.

Eventually, why not now?

Excerpted from an article by
Herbert Jensen, Greenwich, Connecticut

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

Commission on the Educational and Informational Uses of Cable Telecommunications